

FAIRY TAIL

1



Hiro Mashima Creator of *Rave Master*

FAIRY TAIL



HIRO MASHIMA

Fairy Tail volume 1 is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

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Hello!
To first-time readers...
To longtime readers...
To those who just realized
they bought the wrong book...
To those who are saying,
"Who're you?"...
I hope you have fun reading this.
This is a classic story of the
friendship between humans
and cats.
Yes.
I got in a lie right from the start!

—Hiro Mashima

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Kodansha Comics books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from honorifics in American English, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Kodansha not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Kodansha Comics.

- san:** This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.
- sama:** This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.
- dono:** This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

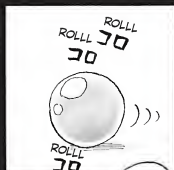
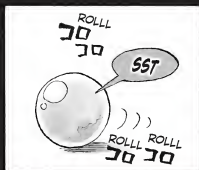
Sempai/

Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.



...those
idiots at
Fairy Tail!!

The magical
world is
beset with a
mountain of
problems!

And among
them, the
problem to be
solved with the
greatest speed
concerns...

Sh-
Shut
your
mouth!!

How did
these young
cretins
get on the
Council
anyway?



'Cause
we've got
killer magic,
that's why.
You old fart.

Wha--!!

Will both
of you be
silent?!

CHANG

Yes.
Very little
to do...

But I hope
somebody will
stir up some
trouble.



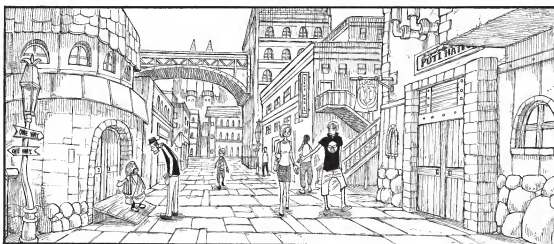
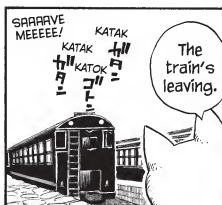
FAIRY TAIL

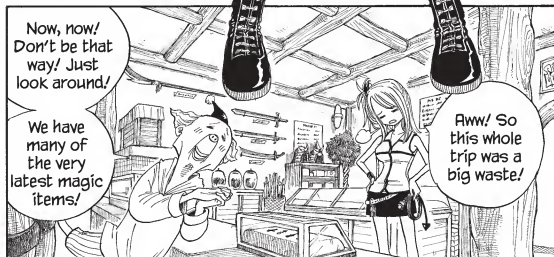


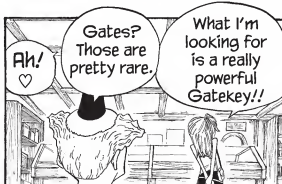
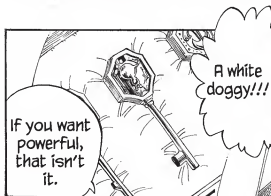
Chapter 1: The Fairy's Tail

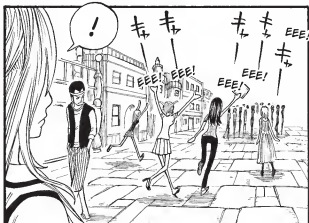
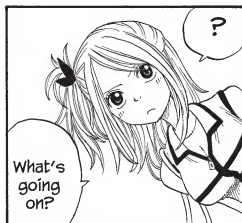
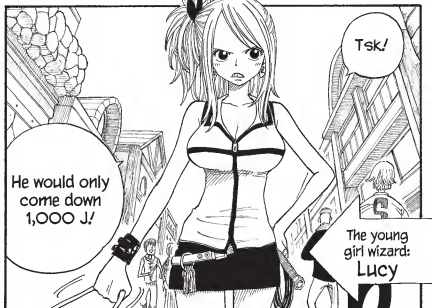


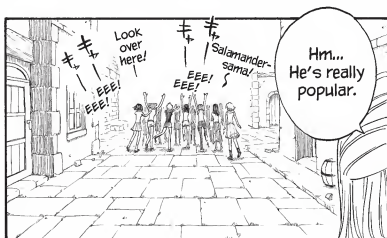
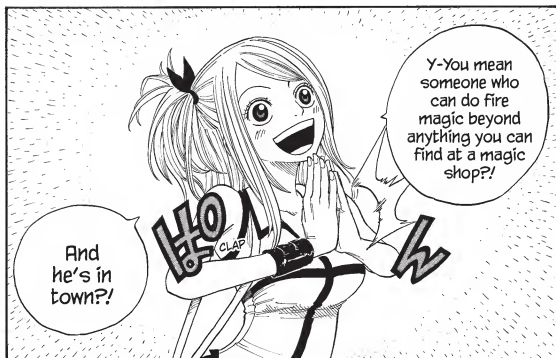


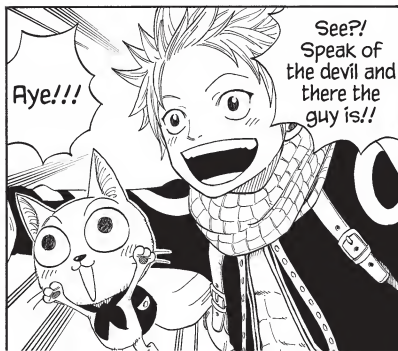
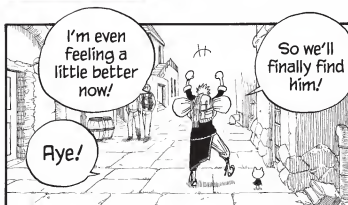


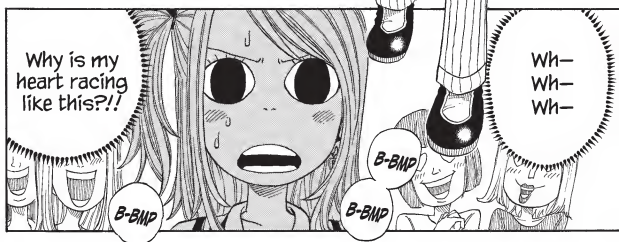
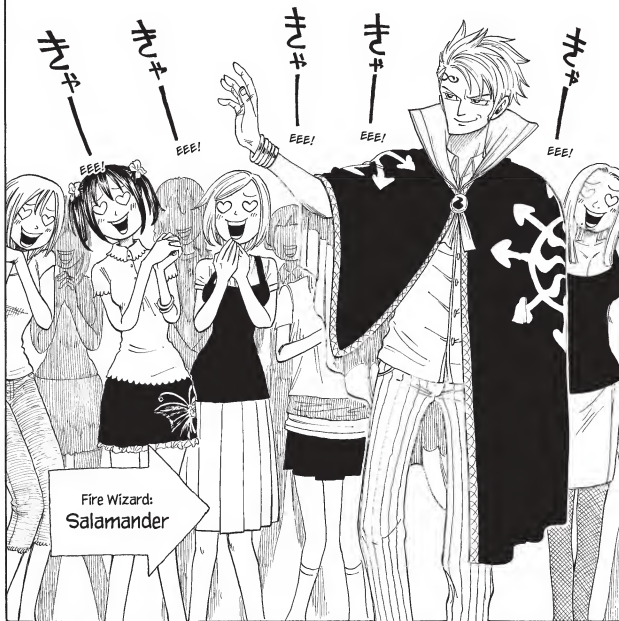


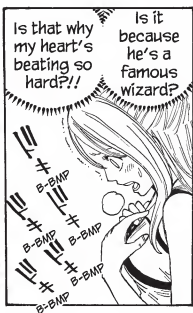
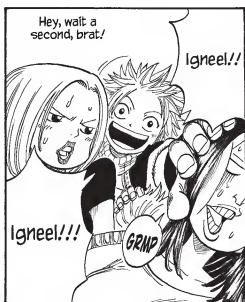
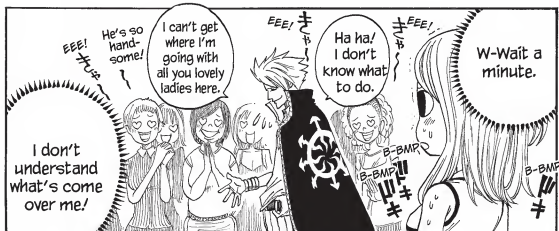


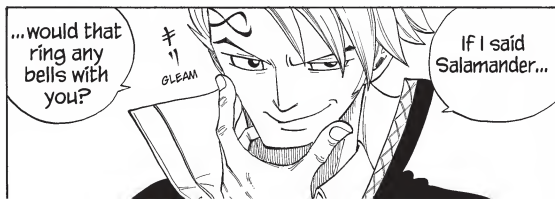
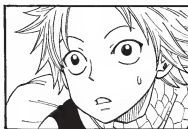
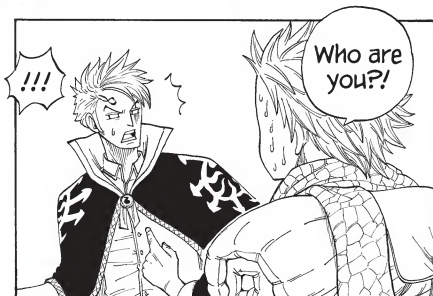
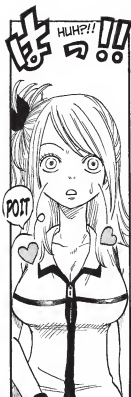


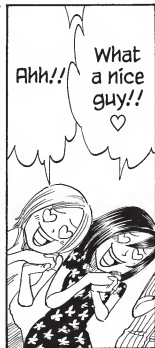
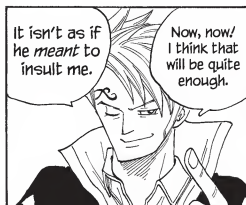
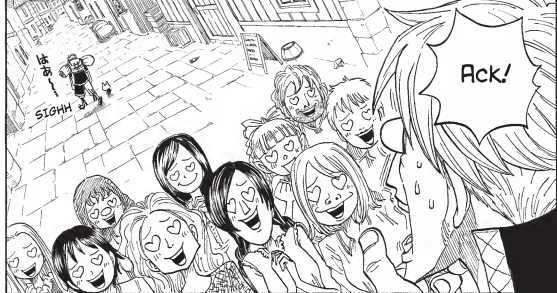






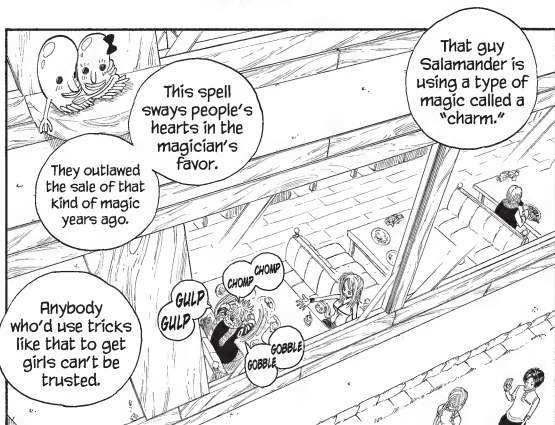
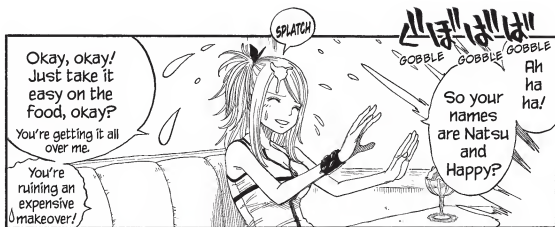














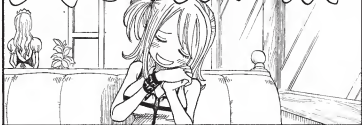
Ah! Sorry!
You don't know
anything about
the world of
wizardry,
do you?

Uh...

Oh, what'll I
do? I want to
get in, but I'm
sure they'll be
so strict.

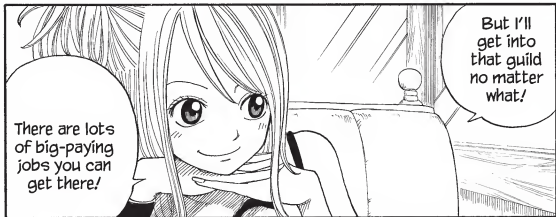
It's a place
where really
incredible
wizards
gather!

There's
one that
I want to
get into!



There are lots
of big-paying
jobs you can
get there!

But I'll
get into
that guild
no matter
what!



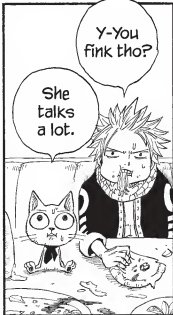
Aye. Igneel.

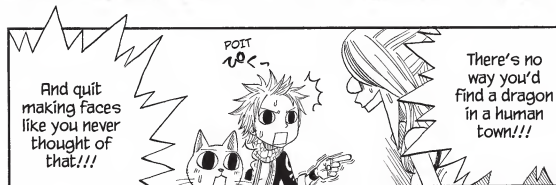
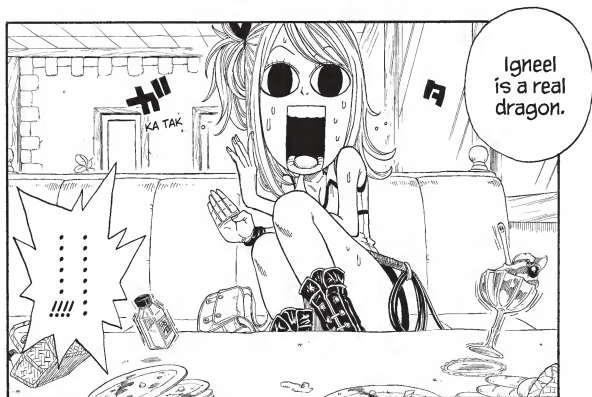
By the way,
you seemed to
be looking for
someone.

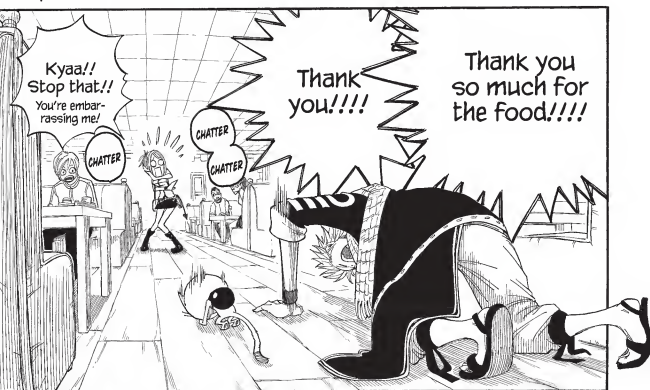
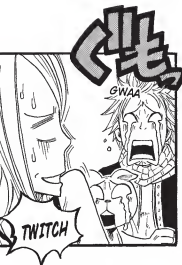


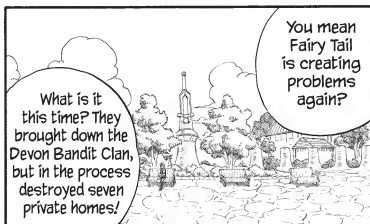
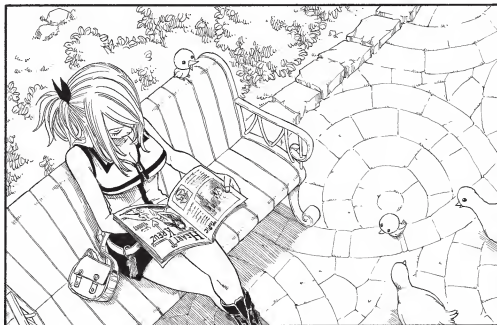
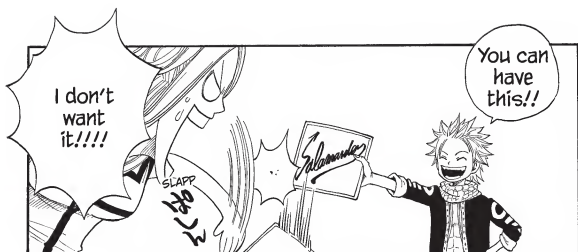
Y-You
fink tho?

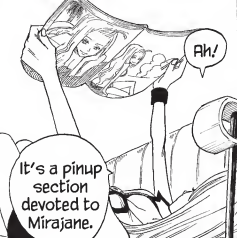
She
talks
a lot.











It's a pinup section devoted to Mirajane.

Ah!



はたはた
THONK THONK

That's way over the top!!!!

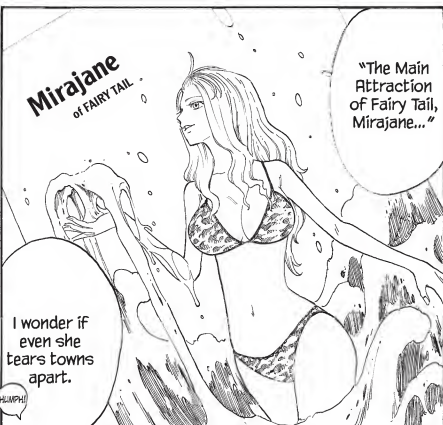
Ah
ha
ha
ha
ha!!!



The question is, how do I get in?!

You have to be an amazing wizard, or it's no dice, huh?

Can't they just give interviews?!

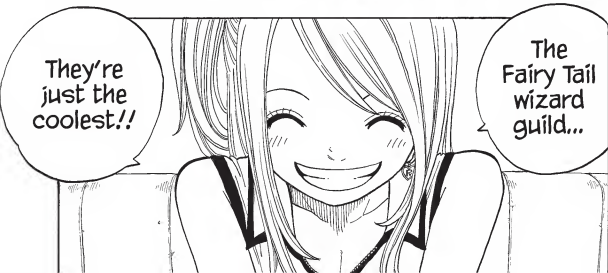


Mirajane
of FAIRY TAIL

I wonder if even she tears towns apart.

HUMPH!

"The Main Attraction of Fairy Tail, Mirajane..."



They're just the coolest!!

The Fairy Tail wizard guild...

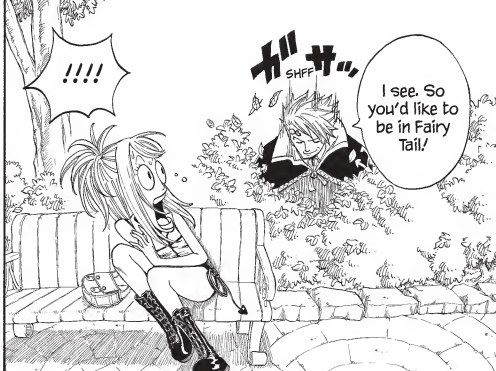
S-
Salamander?!!



!!!!

SHFF

I see. So
you'd like to
be in Fairy
Tail!

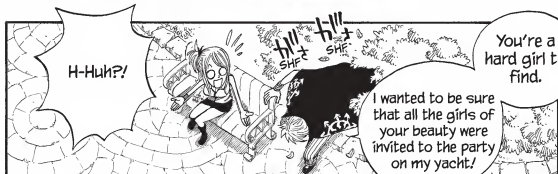


H-Huh?!

SHFF SHFF

You're a
hard girl to
find.

I wanted to be sure
that all the girls of
your beauty were
invited to the party
on my yacht!



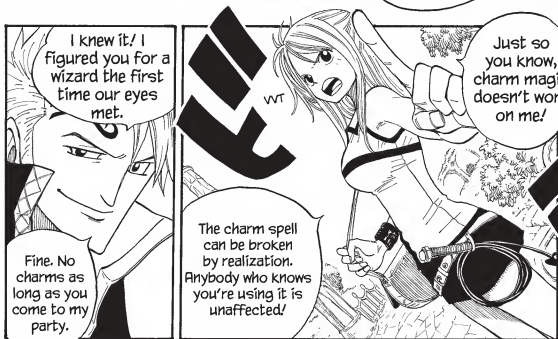
I knew it! I
figured you for a
wizard the first
time our eyes
met.

Fine. No
charms as
long as you
come to my
party.

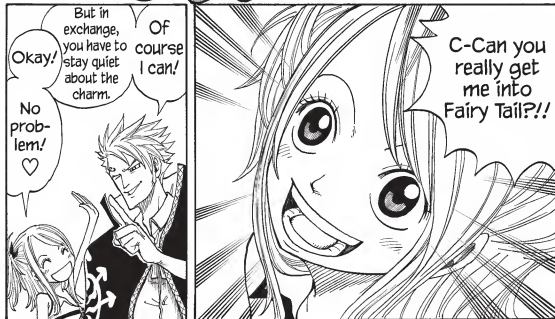
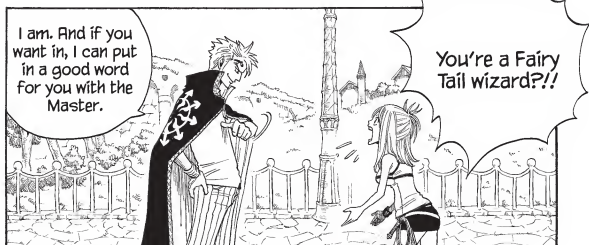
WT

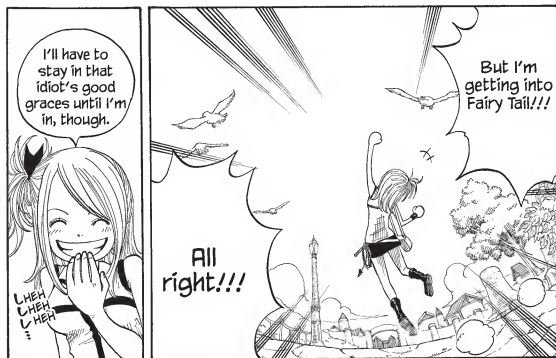
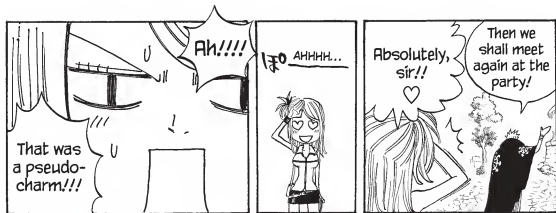
The charm spell
can be broken
by realization.
Anybody who knows
you're using it is
unaffected!

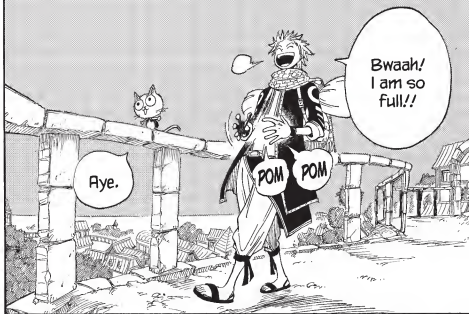
Just so
you know,
charm magic
doesn't work
on me!

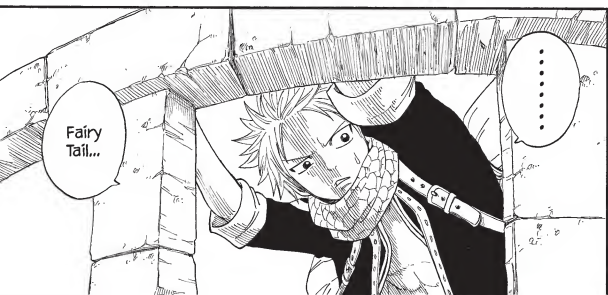


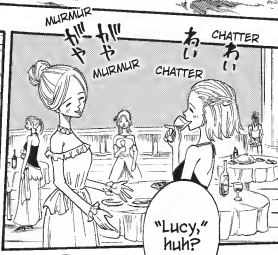
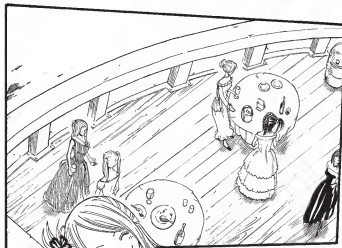
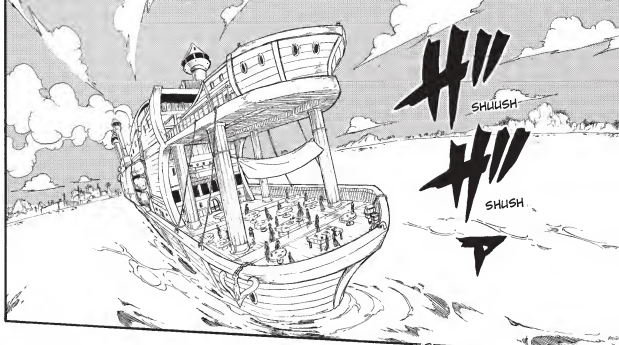


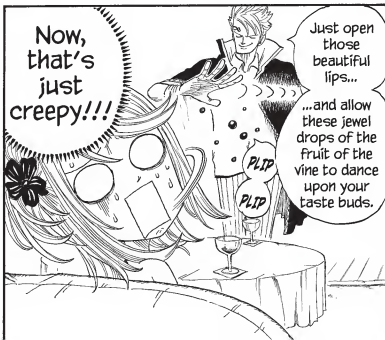
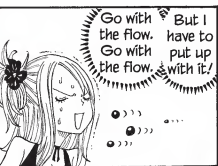
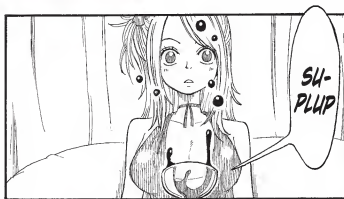
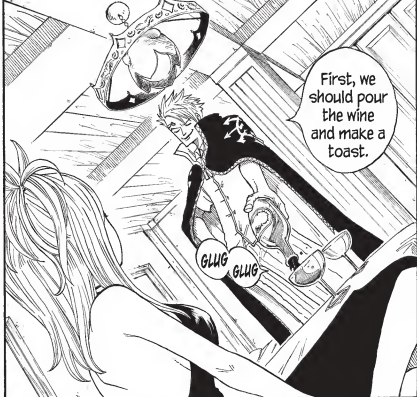
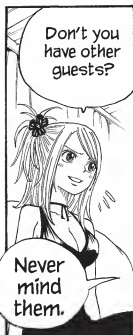


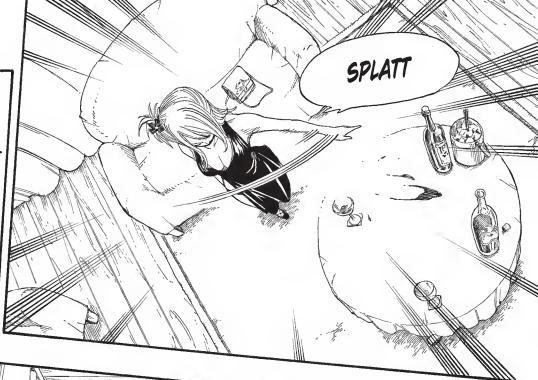


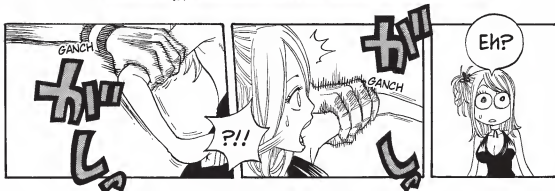












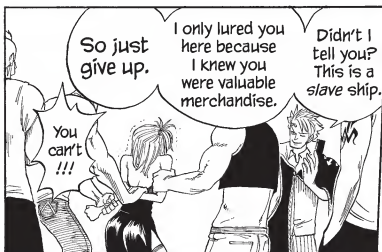


You are going to behave yourself until we arrive in the country of Bosco...

Welcome aboard my slave ship!!

...young lady!

Eh?!!



So just give up.

I only lured you here because I knew you were valuable merchandise.

Didn't I tell you? This is a *slave ship*.

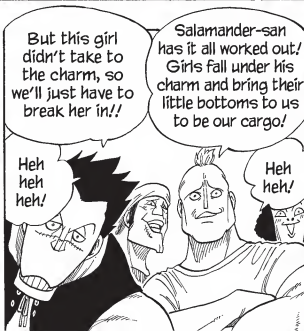
You can't !!!



Bosco?! Wait!! What about Fairy Tail?!!



N-No!! This can't be happening!!



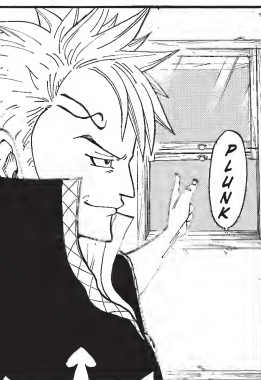
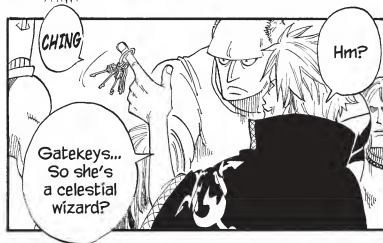
But this girl didn't take to the charm, so we'll just have to break her in!!

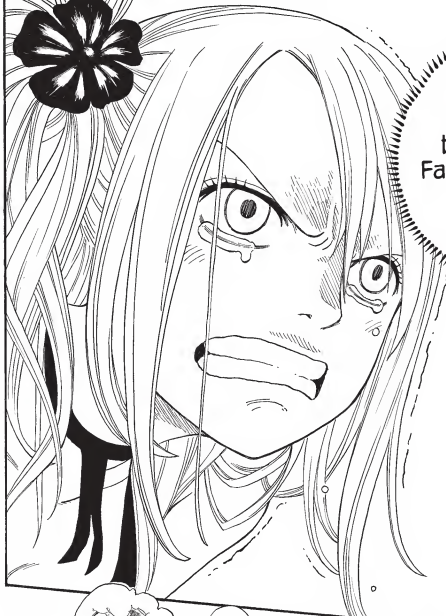
Salamander-san has it all worked out! Girls fall under his charm and bring their little bottoms to us to be our cargo!

Heh heh heh!

Heh heh!





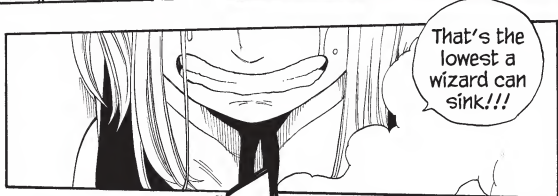
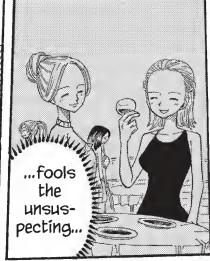


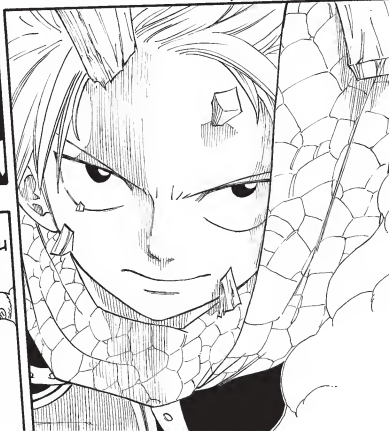
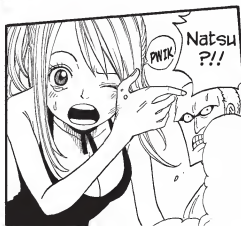
Are these
the things a
Fairy Tail wizard
does?



It might
sting a bit,
but grit
your teeth
and bear
it.

The first
thing we do
with slaves is
brand them!





Ehh?!
That's
the least
cool thing
I've ever
seen!!!



BLEEEAAH

Urk!

No good!
I can't take it!



SHUSH SHUSH



おおおおお
OHHHHH...

And he's
gone all
seasick!



Wh-
What's
going on
here?!!

How did a
kid come
falling
out of the
sky?!!



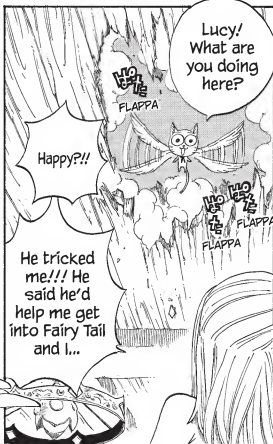
I don't
remember
you having
wings!



Let's
save the
details
for later!



TWIK



Lucy!
What are
you doing
here?

Happy?!!

He tricked
me!!! He
said he'd
help me get
into Fairy Tail
and I...

FLAPPA

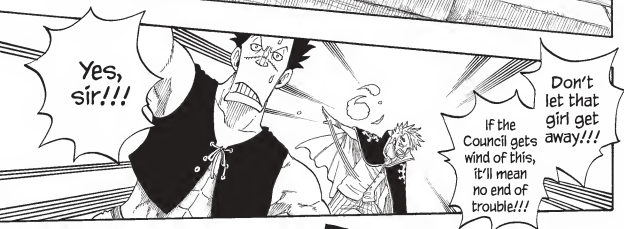
FLAPPA
FLAPPA



Tsk!



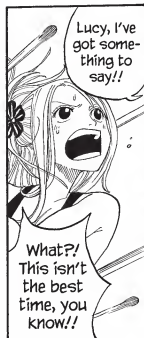
Whoops!



Yes, sir!!!

Don't let that girl get away!!!

If the Council gets wind of this, it'll mean no end of trouble!!!



Lucy, I've got something to say!!

What?!! This isn't the best time, you know!!



Whoa!

They've got guns!!

KYaaaaaa!!!



Did I get her?



You damn cat!!!

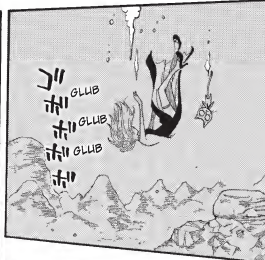


I can't stay transformed.



Is that what Fairy Tail is all about?

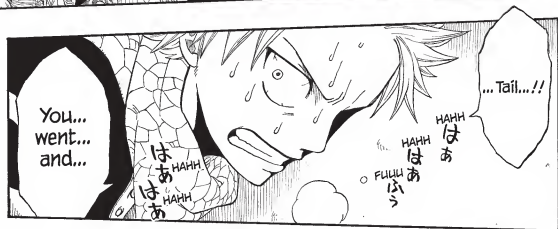
Wait! First I have to figure out how to rescue those girls!!



There they are!!

I'm so glad they got caught in the shallows!!
♡





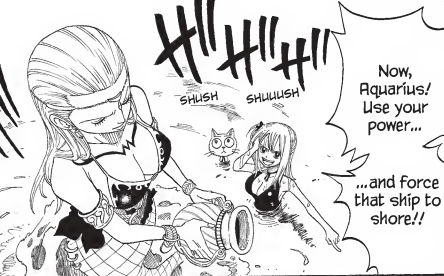
Aquarius!!!

KEEEE

I
command
the Gate of
the Water
Bearer to
open!!!

SPLOOSH

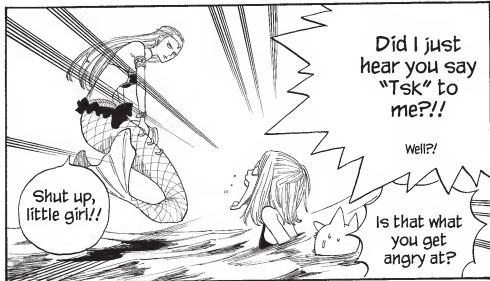
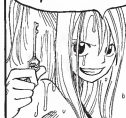
That's
amaz-
ing!!!



Now,
Aquarius!
Use your
power...

...and force
that ship to
shore!!

I'm a celestial
wizard! I use the
keys to the Gates
to the other world,
and call the celestial
spirits forth!!



Did I just
hear you say
"Tsk" to
me?!!

Well?!

Is that what
you get
angry at?

Tsk!

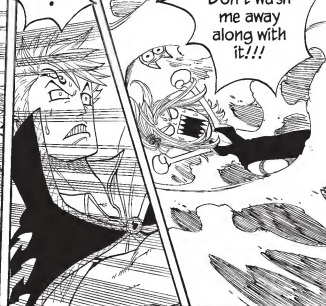
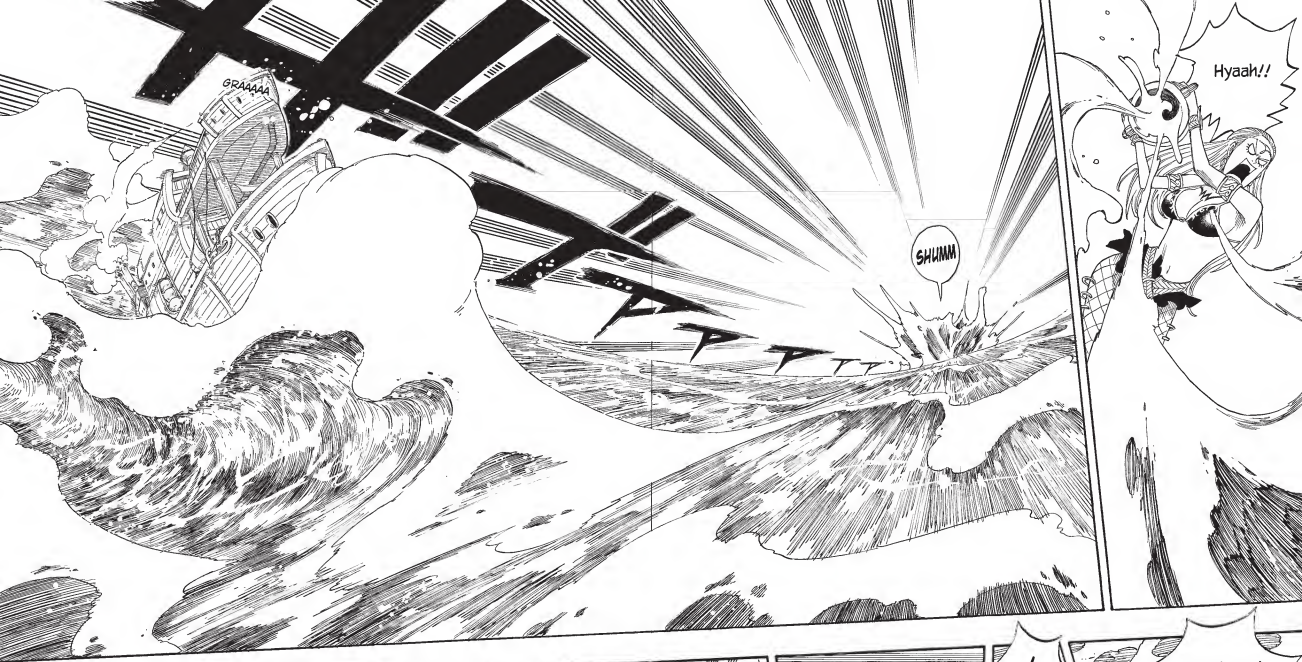


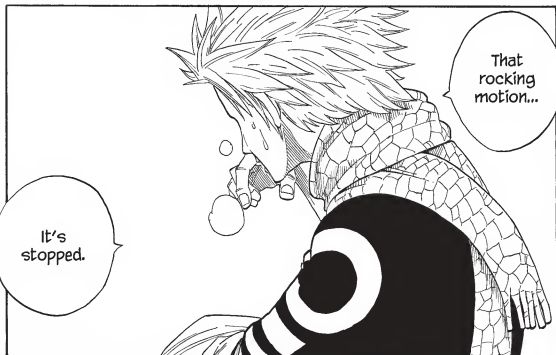
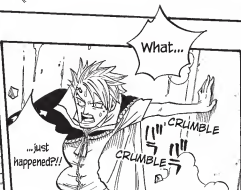
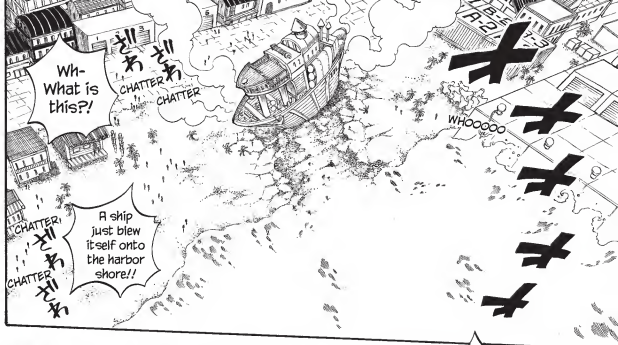
The next
time you
drop my key,
I'll kill you!!

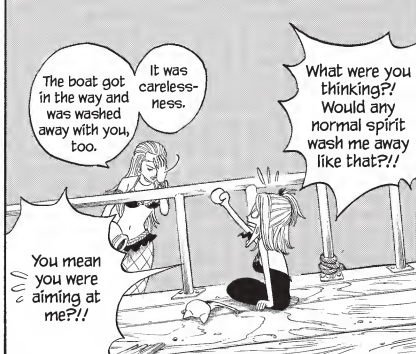
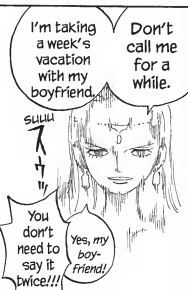
I-I'm
sorry!!

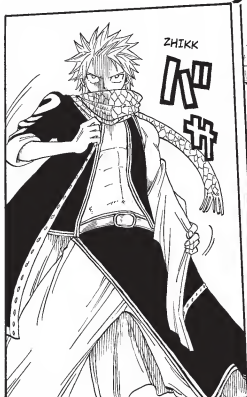


I have
one
thing to
say.











Whaa?!!

We didn't get a chance to mention it, but Natsu is a wizard, too.



He's fine.

Oh, no! I'd better...



Yes, sir!!

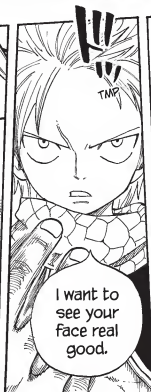
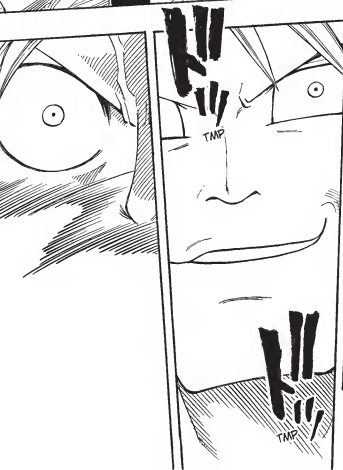
Hey, throw him over-board.



You're a Fairy Tail wizard?



WHOOSH



I want to see your face real good.



Yeah, what about it?!



Wha-?!!!

Eh?

And I ain't
never seen
you before in
my life!!!!

'Cause
I'm Natsu of
Fairy Tail!!!

WHAM

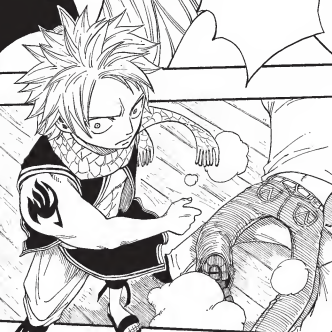
Natsu is
a Fairy Tail
wizard?!!

Fairy
Tail?!!!

Y-You
idiot!!!
Don't use
that name!!!

That one's
the real
thing,
Bora-
san!!!

Huh?!
That
mark!!!



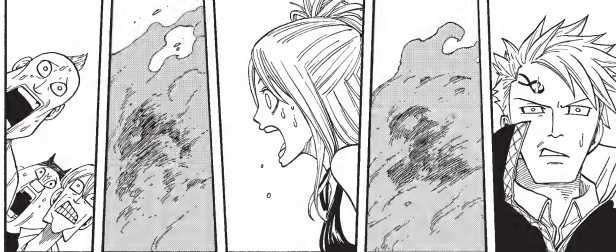
I heard about
that! He was
expelled for
repeatedly using
magic to aid in
thievery.

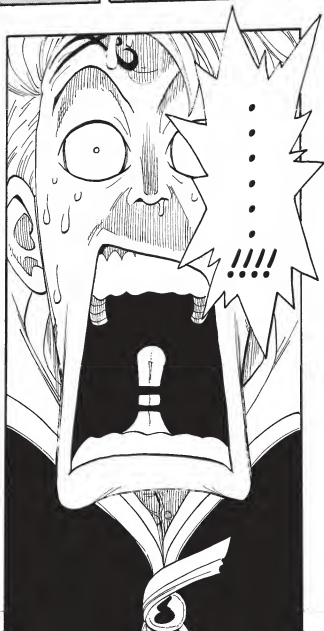
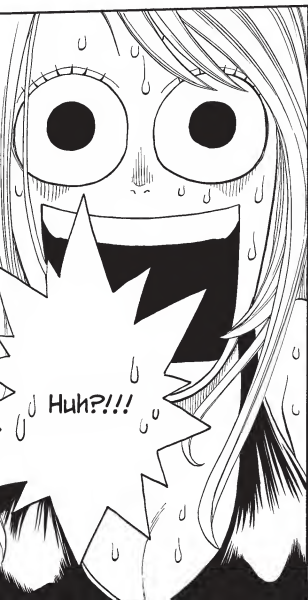
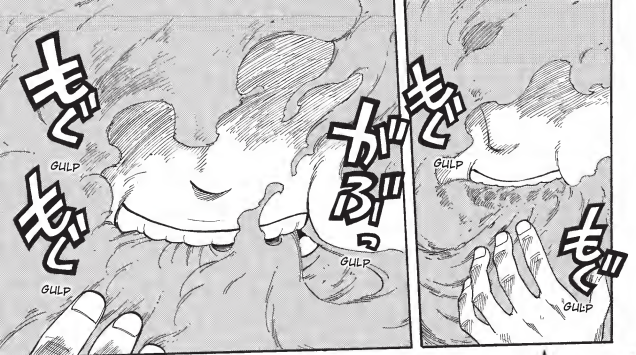
Bora...A few
years back a man
named Bora the
Prominence was
expelled from the
Titan Nose wizard
guild.

But I'm not
going to let
you slander
the name of
Fairy Tail!!!

You could be
good or evil!
It makes no
difference to
me!!





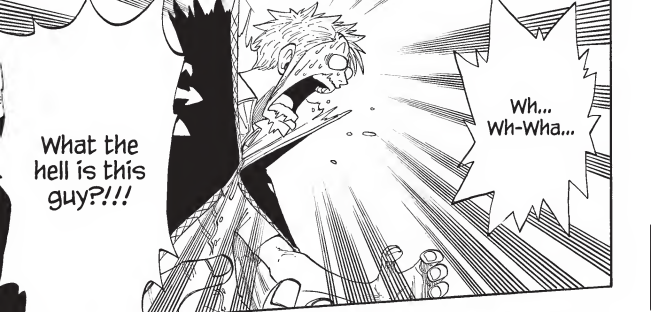




Ahhh...

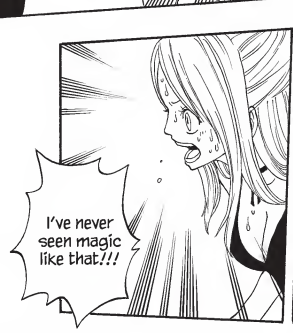
GWOOOOO

But thanks
for the meal,
anyway.



What the hell is this guy?!!!

Wh...
Wh-Wha...



I've never
seen magic
like that!!!

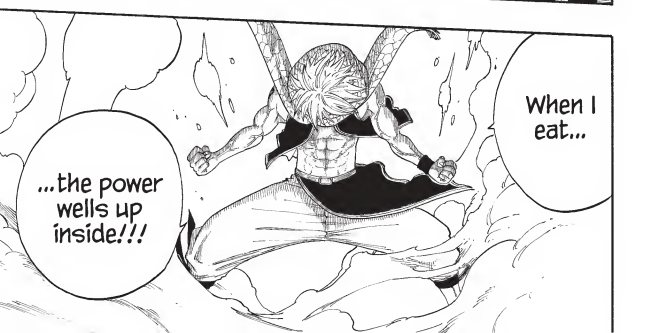


Fire
doesn't
work on
Natsu.



Fire?!!

You mean
he ate the
fire?!!

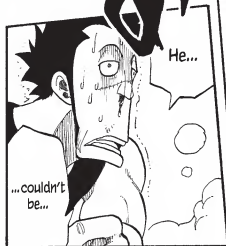


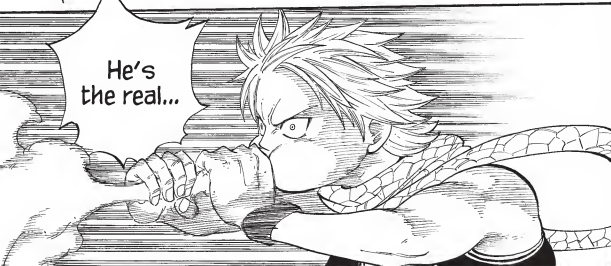
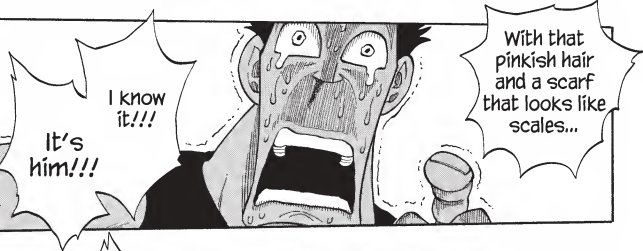
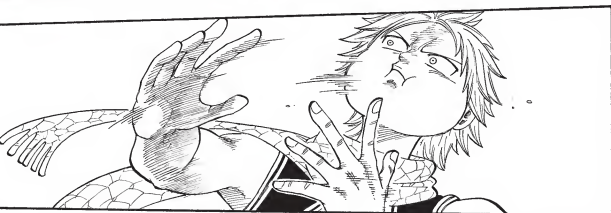
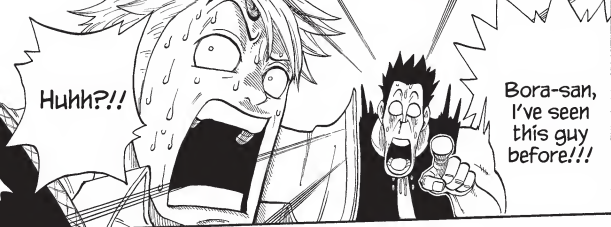
...the power
wells up
inside!!!

When I
eat...



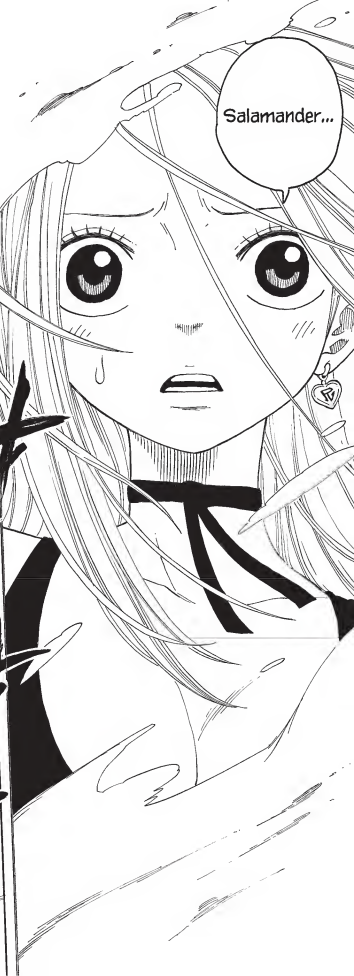
Here I
gooooooooo!!!!







KA-FWOOOM





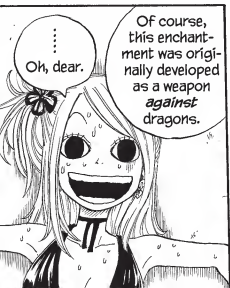
GWAMMM

...wizard!!!!



Can this
even be
called
magic?!!

He eats fire...
He punches
with fire...



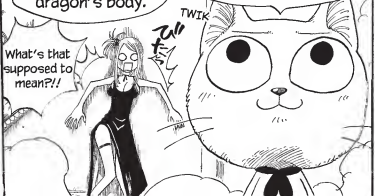
Oh, dear.

Of course,
this enchant-
ment was origi-
nally developed
as a weapon
against
dragons.

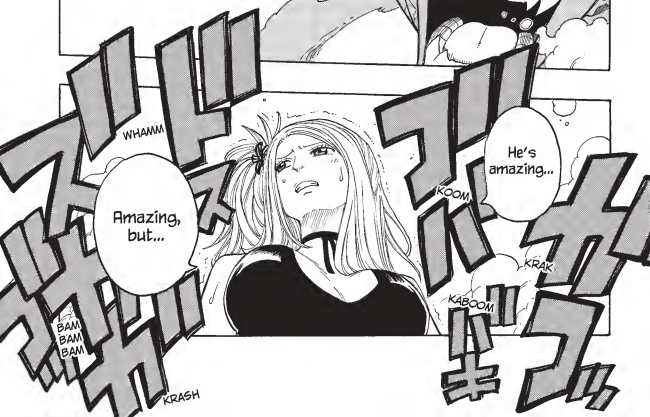
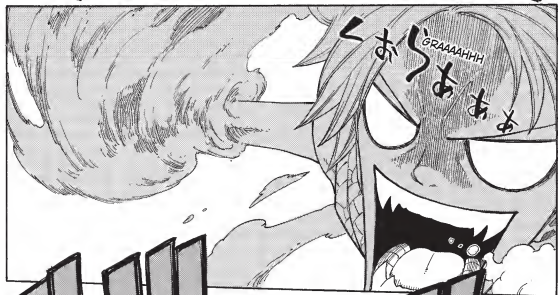
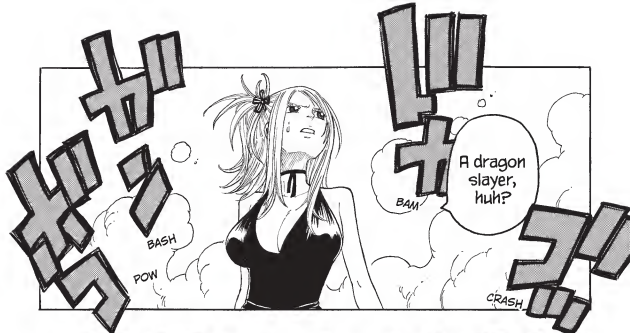
This is an
enchantment that
transforms the
body and gives it
the aspects of a
dragon's body.

A dragon's lungs
exhale fire. A dragon's
scales dissolve fire.
A dragon's claws are
enveloped in fire.

What's that
supposed to
mean?!!









He's
getting
too
carried
away!!!!



Owie...

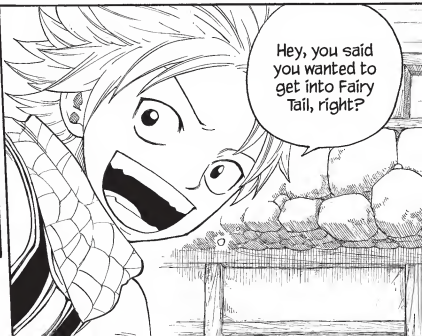
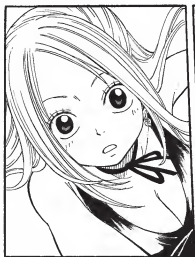


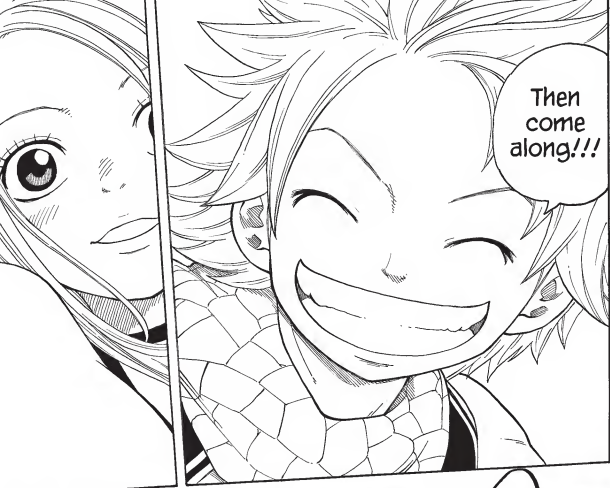
Is "Aye"
all you
have to
say?!!

Aye.

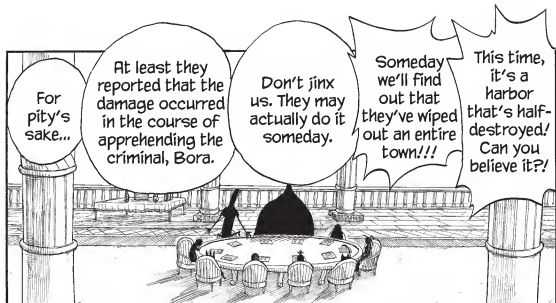


Th-The whole
harbor's a
wreck!!!



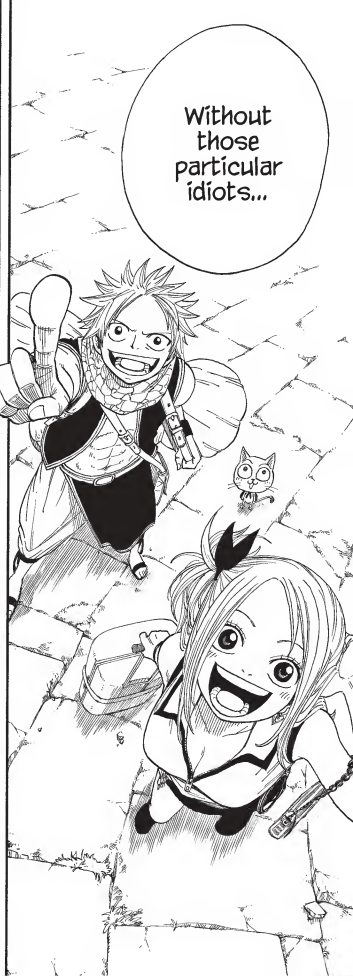






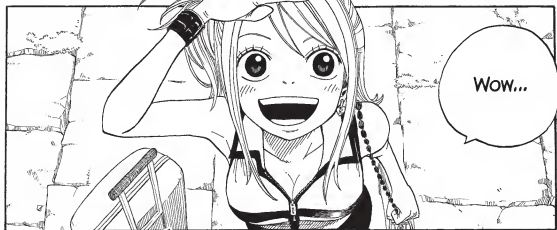


...this world
would be
completely
boring.

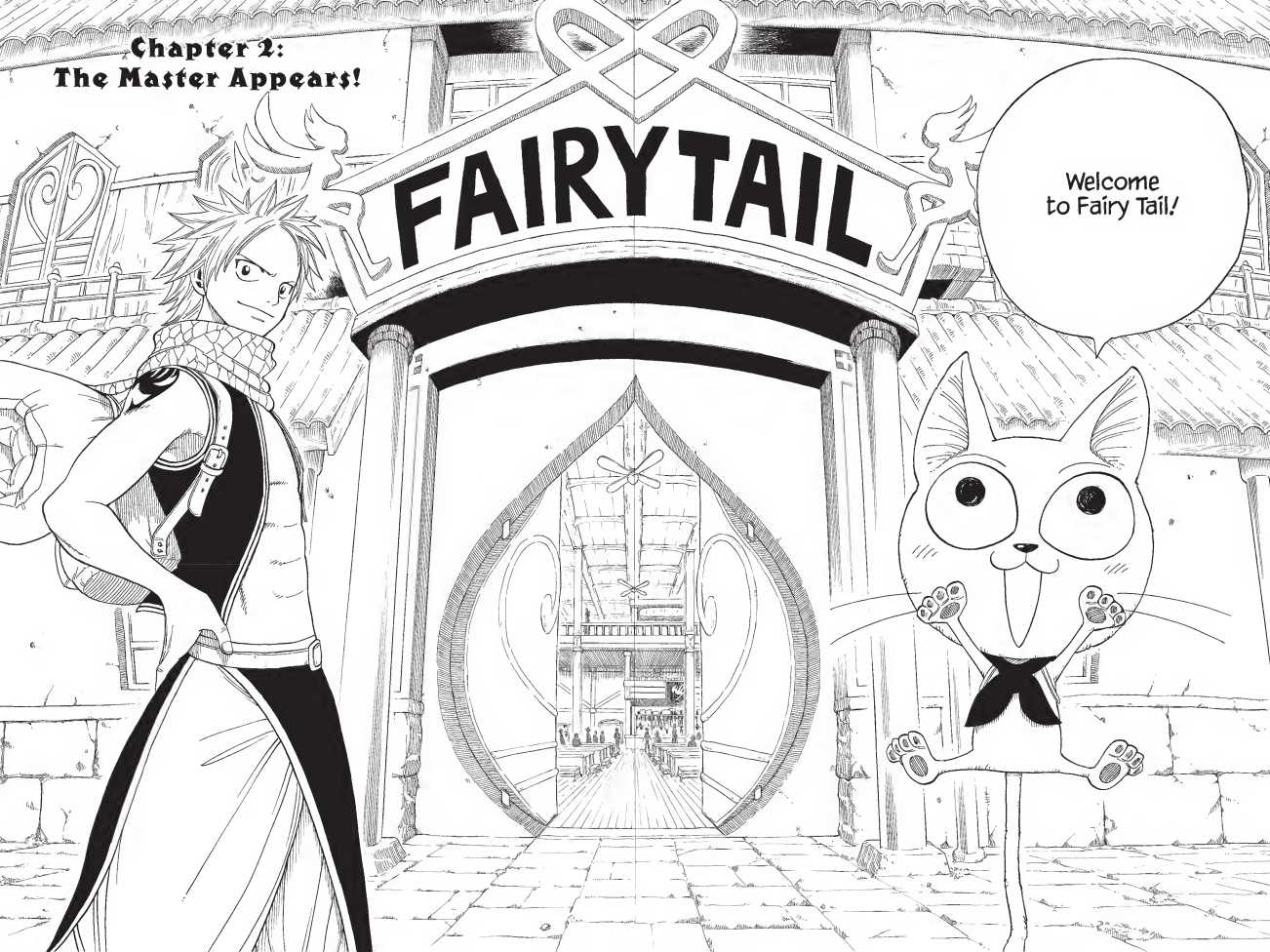


Without
those
particular
idiots...

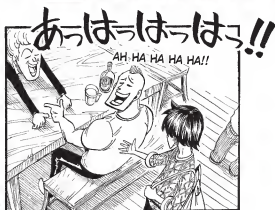
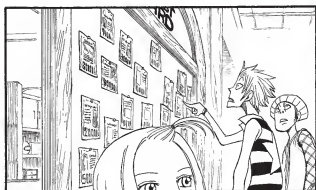




**Chapter 2:
The Master Appears!**



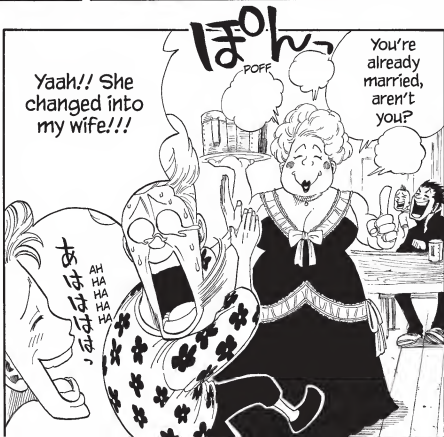
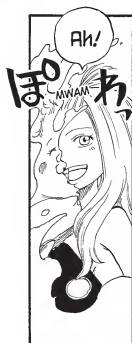
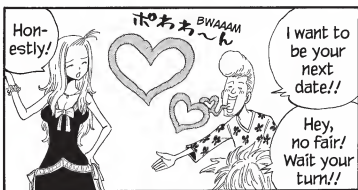
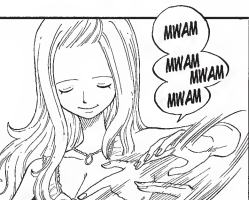
Welcome
to Fairy Tail!

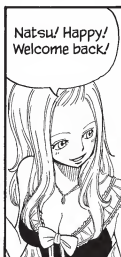
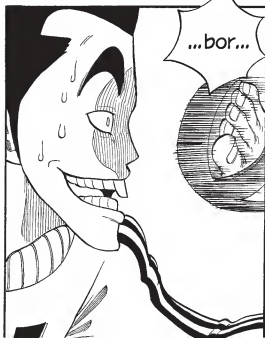


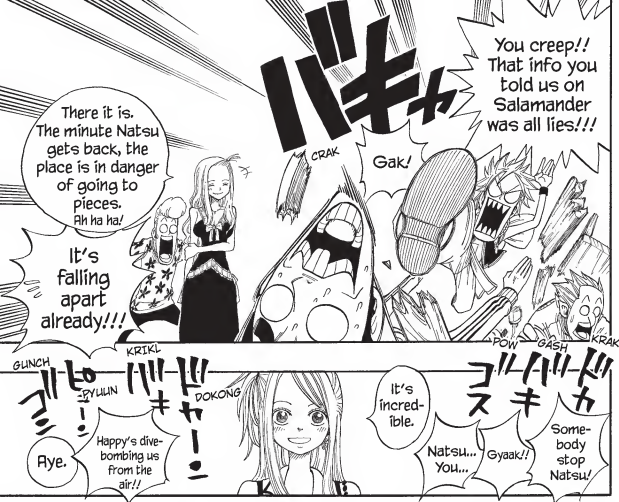
Mira-chan!!
Could you
bring three
beers over
here?



Fairy Tail employee:
Mirajane







SLNN

You lousy...
This time
we're going to
finish it!!!

You hear?!!

You say that
Natsu is
back?!!

!!!

TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP

That's why they say
the men here have
no class!

Huh?!!
Oh,
dammit!!!!

Gray...What
kind of
getup are
you walking
around in?

This is
disgusting.

BURRP

It
makes
me
sick!!

GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG

Hey,
Natsu!!!
I'm taking
you on!!!

Put on
some
clothes,
then we'll
fight!

GM GM GM GM GM



Just another fight, huh?

If you're a man, let your fists do the talking!!!



And he doesn't even last five seconds?!!

もへいもへい
DWA AAAA

You're just in the way!!!

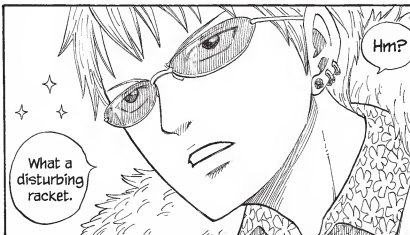


They aren't babies. They shouldn't be screaming and making noise continuously.



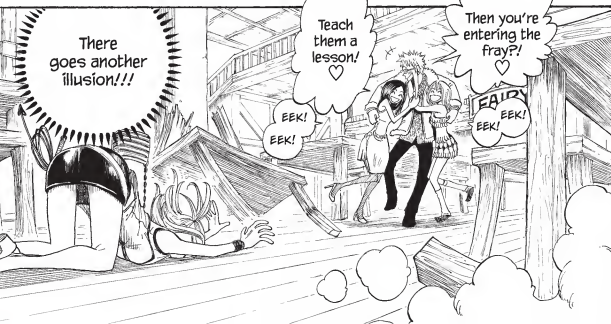
It's Loke!! One of the top-ranking men for "The Wizard I'd Like to Be My Boyfriend"!!

(As ranked by Weekly Sorcerer Magazine)



Hm?

What a disturbing racket.



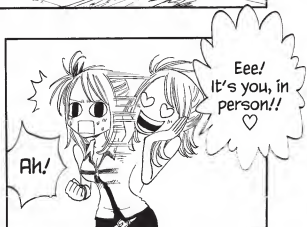
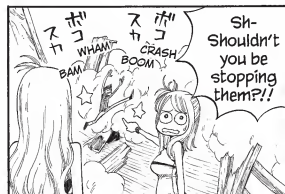
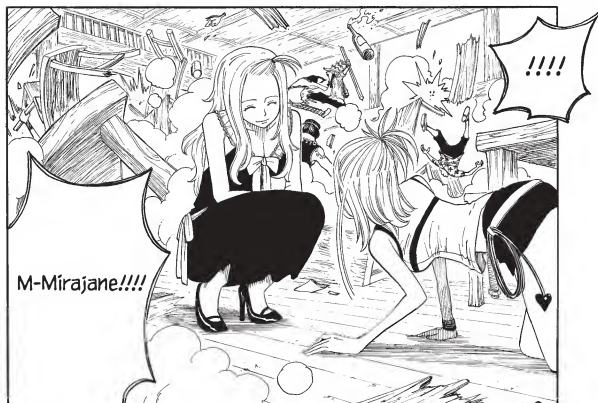
There goes another illusion!!!

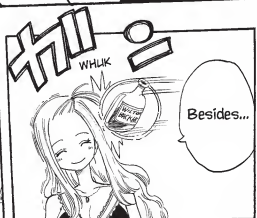
Teach them a lesson!
♡

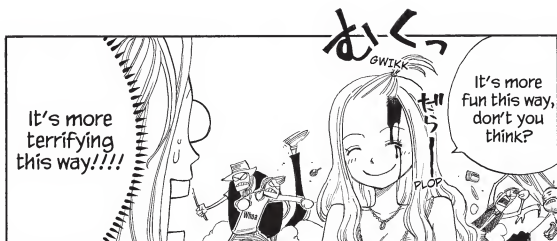
Then you're entering the fray?!
♡

EEK!
EEK!

FAIRY
EEK!
EEK!







おどろ

By the way, you're a model, right? I can tell.

What's going on here?!!

SLIP

How unsightly! I cannot understand the indelicacy of these men!

Nobody lends out underwear!!!

Young lady, if it isn't too inconvenient, could you lend me your underwear?

ガッ
GASH

I said, you're in the way!!

I will decide with my fists!!!

If you can't control yourselves...

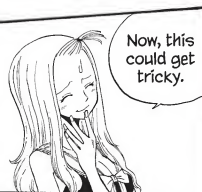
Aww, shut up all of ya!!!

A girl can't drink in peace in here!!



Magic
?!!!

ぐわ
ぐわ
ぐわ
GULP

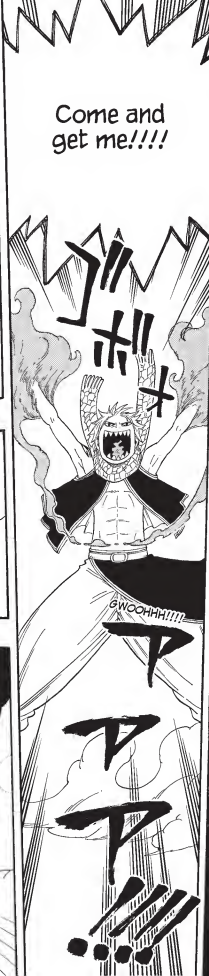


Now, this
could get
tricky.



This ends
here!

SKREECH



Come and
get me!!!!

ぐわぐわぐわ!!!!

ア
ア
ア
!!!



キ
キ
キ
KEEEE

Your crass
ways must be
dealt
with...



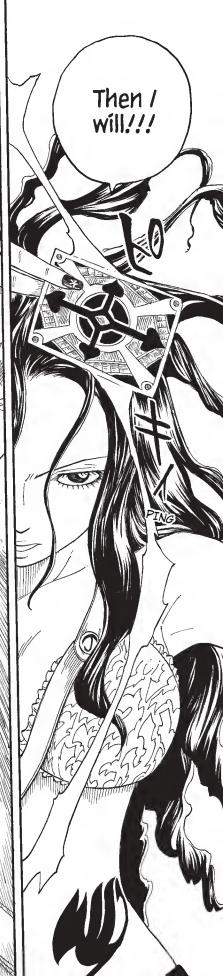
Hyaaaaa!!!!

WHOOOO



WHOOOO

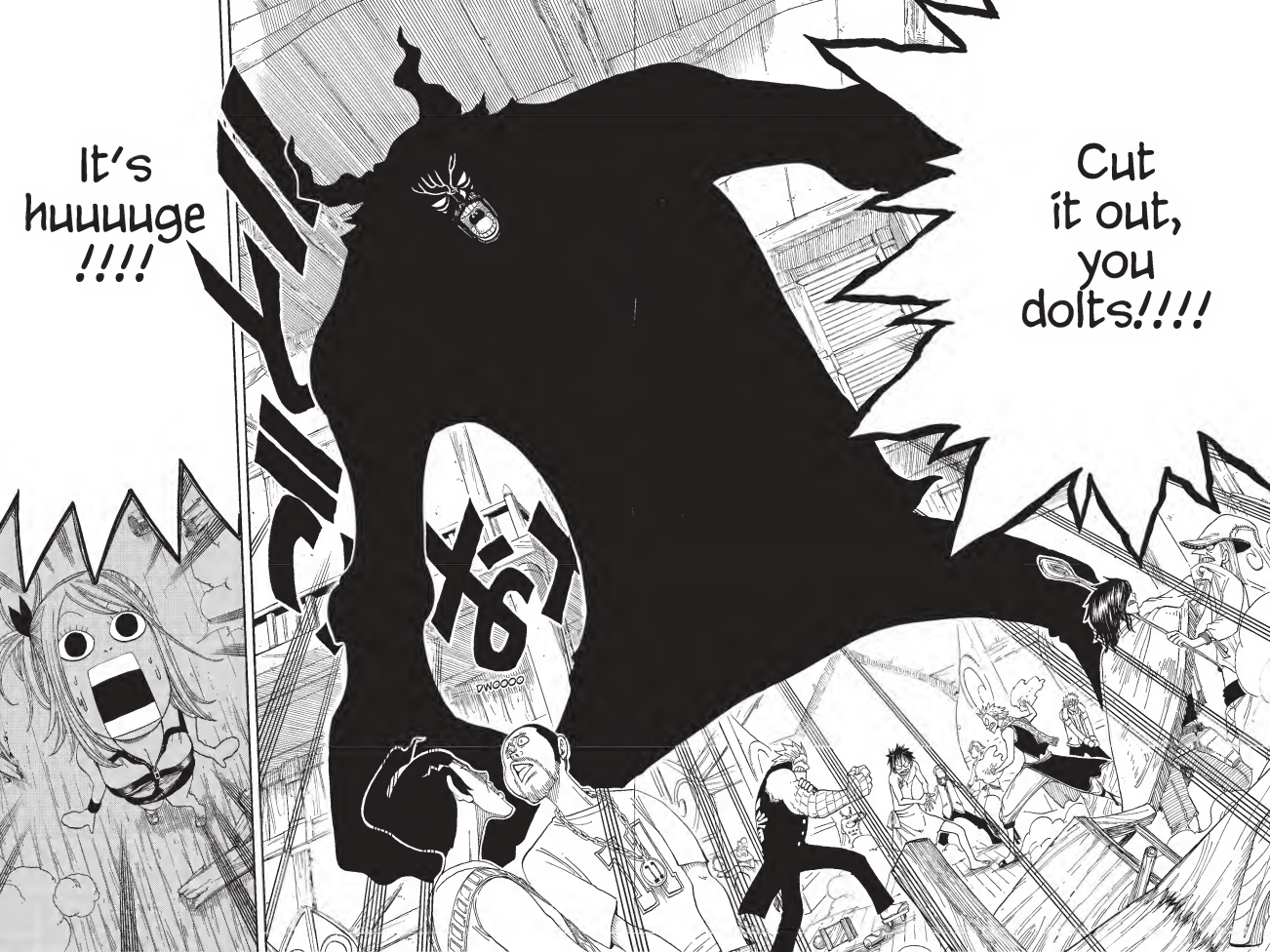
I'm mad
now!!!!

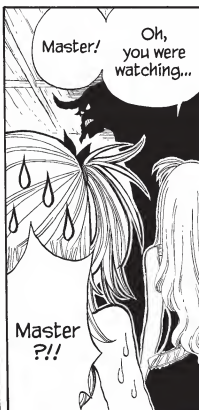
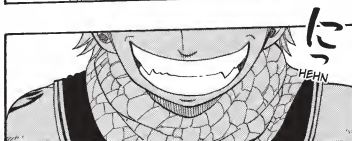
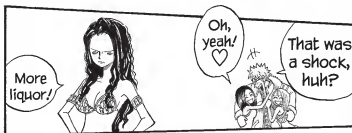
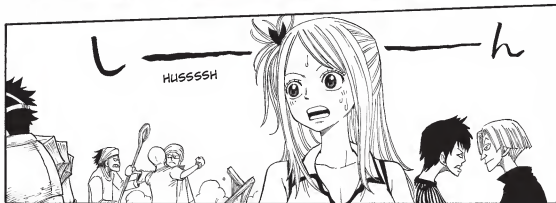
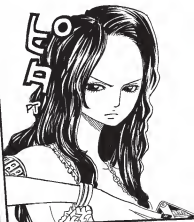


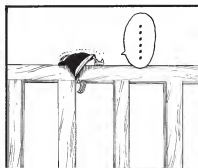
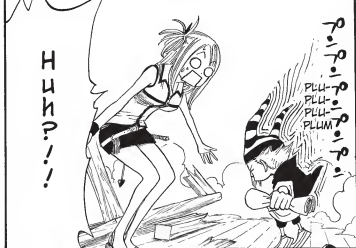
Then /
will!!!!

It's
huuuuge
!!!!

Cut
it out,
you
dolts!!!!









Gray!



The Council?
Isn't that the
body that
manages all
the wizard
guilds?



First...



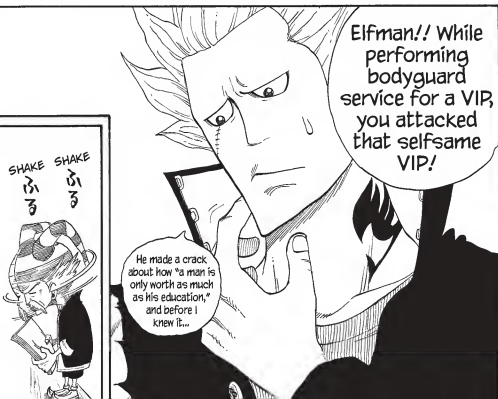
But...I
couldn't
keep running
around
naked!

Maybe if you
hadn't gotten
naked in the
first place?

...and in the end,
you wound up
stealing somebody's
underwear right off
the line and running
away with it.

...but
afterward,
you stumbled
around town
in the nude...

It's good that
you rounded
up that ring of
smugglers...



Elfman!! While
performing
bodyguard
service for a VIP,
you attacked
that selfsame
VIP!

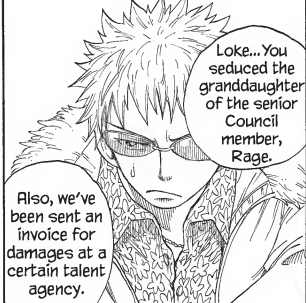
He made a crack
about how "a man is
only worth as much
as his education,"
and before I
knew it...



SHAKE SHAKE
ふる ふる

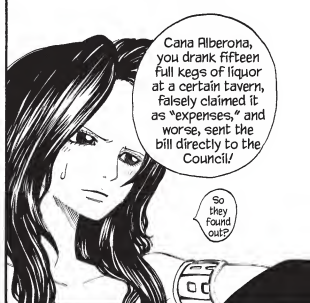


SIGH
はあ



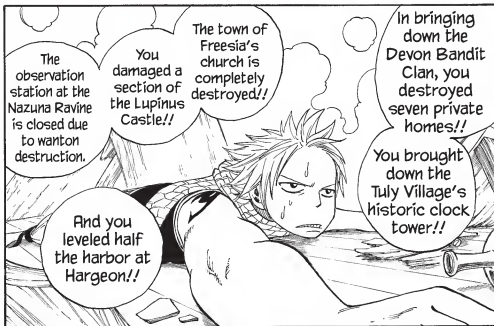
Loke... You seduced the granddaughter of the senior Council member, Rage.

Also, we've been sent an invoice for damages at a certain talent agency.



Cana Alberona, you drank fifteen full kegs of liquor at a certain tavern, falsely claimed it as "expenses," and worse, sent the bill directly to the Council!

So they found out?



The observation station at the Nazuna Ravine is closed due to wanton destruction.

You damaged a section of the Lupinus Castle!!

The town of Freesia's church is completely destroyed!!

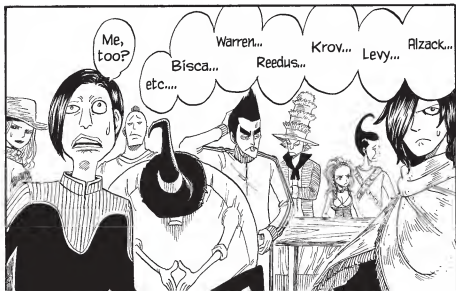
In bringing down the Devon Bandit Clan, you destroyed seven private homes!!

You brought down the Tuly Village's historic clock tower!!

And you leveled half the harbor at Hargeon!!



And Natsu...



Me, too?

etc....

Bisca...

Warren...

Reedus...

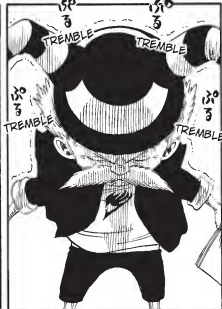
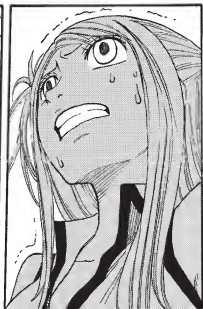
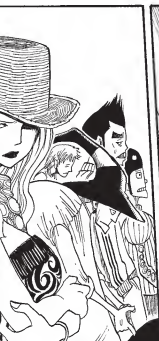
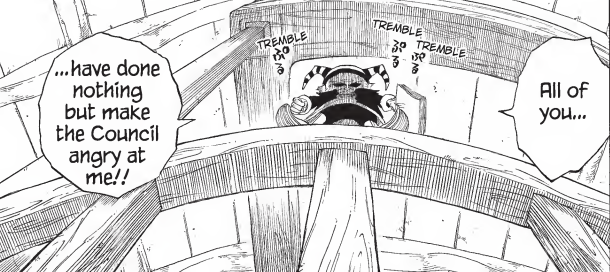
Krov...

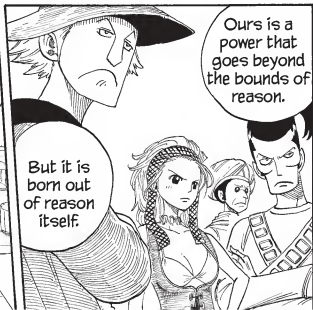
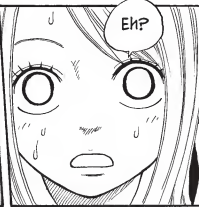
Levy...

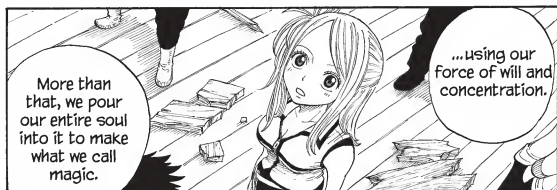
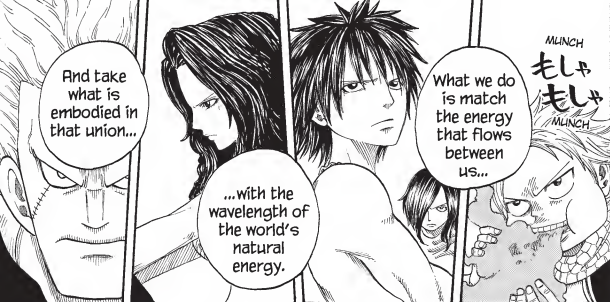
Alzack...



So most of the stuff I read about in the magazine was Natsu's doing?!!



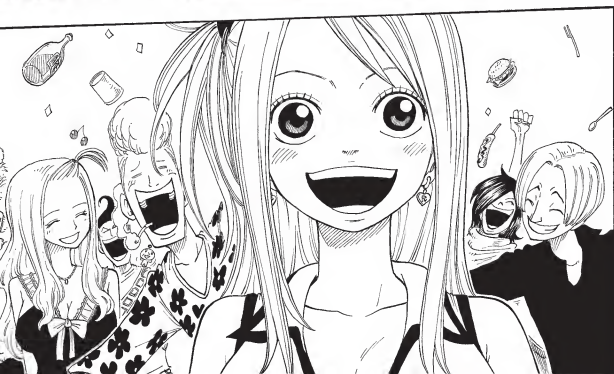
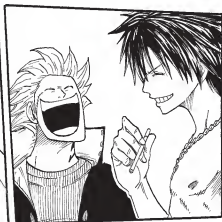
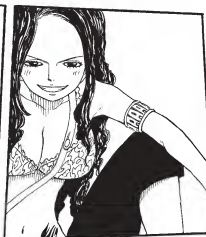
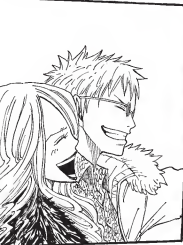
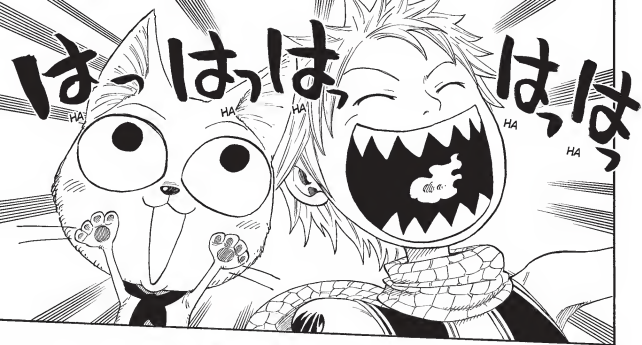


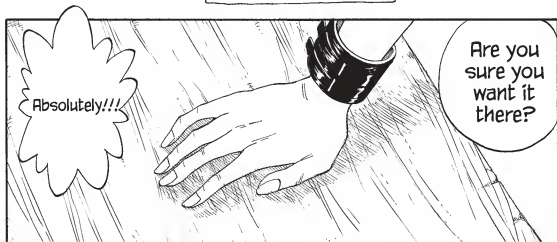


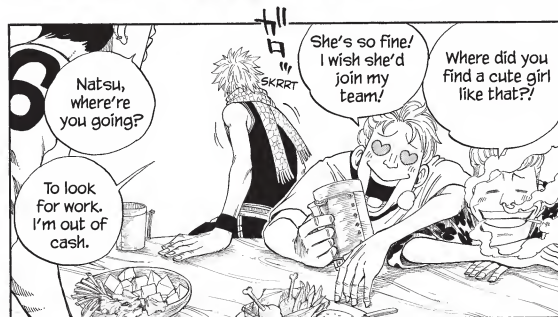
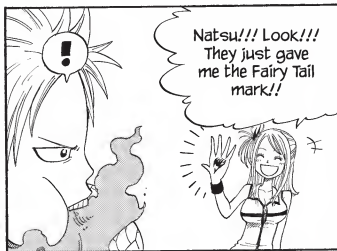
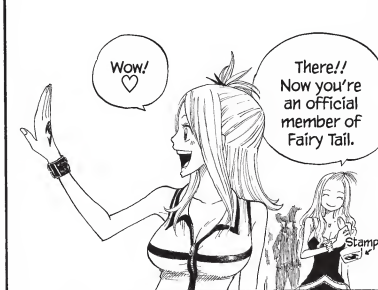


Follow the
path you
truly believe
in!!!!

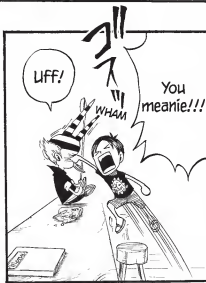
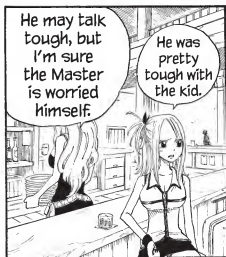
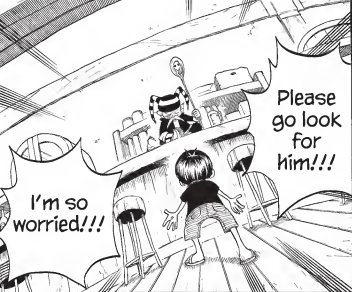
That is what
it means to
be a Fairy Tail
wizard!!!!

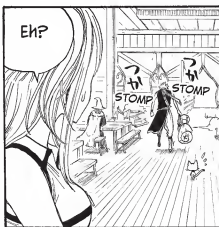
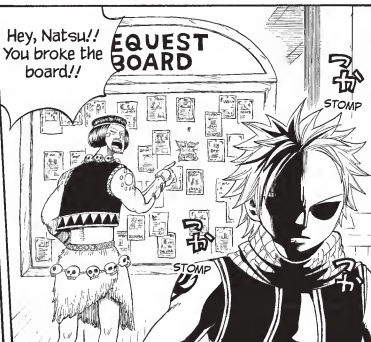
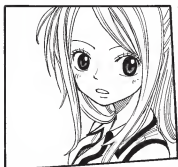
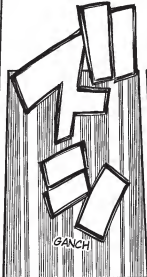
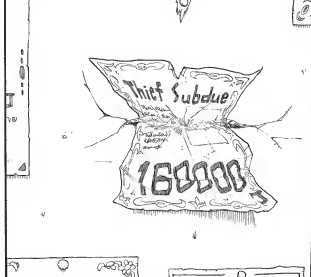


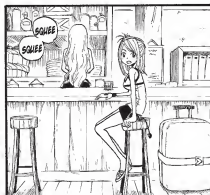


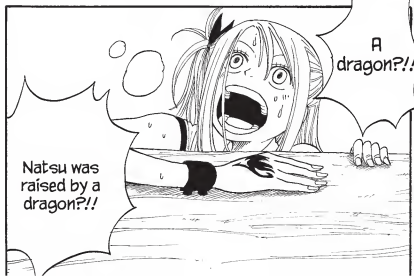
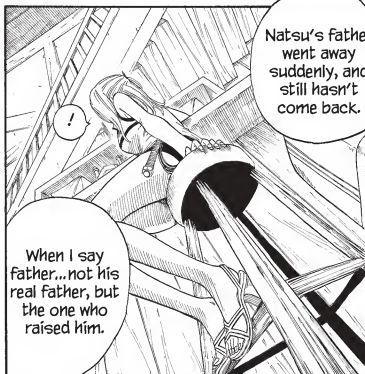
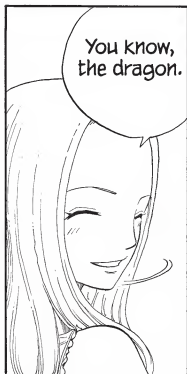
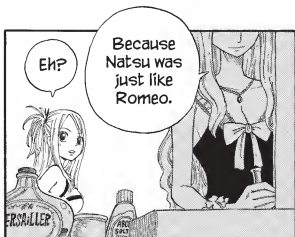
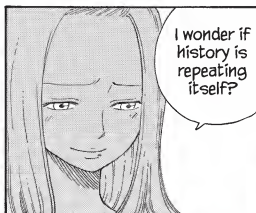






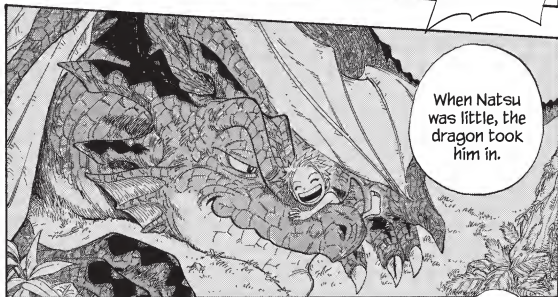




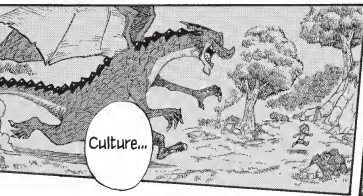


Listen...

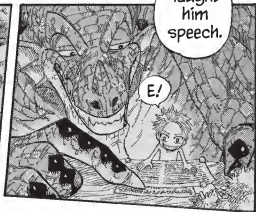
How's anybody supposed to believe that?!!



When Natsu was little, the dragon took him in.



Culture...

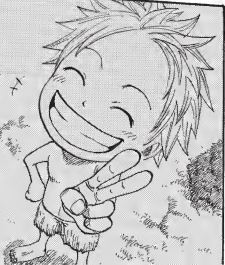


Taught him speech.

E!

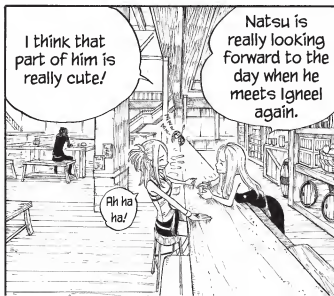
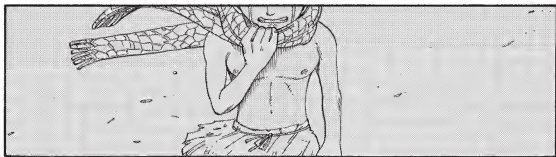


Magic... The dragon taught him everything.





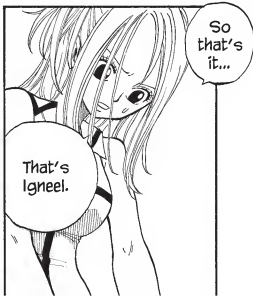
But one day,
the dragon just
disappeared.



I think that
part of him is
really cute!

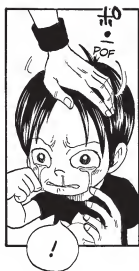
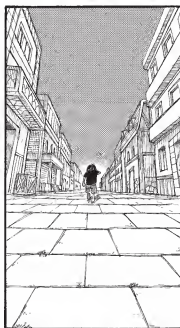
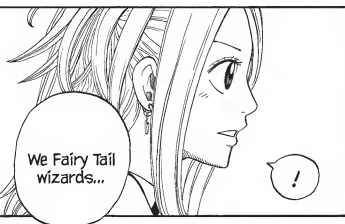
Natsu is
really looking
forward to the
day when he
meets Igneel
again.

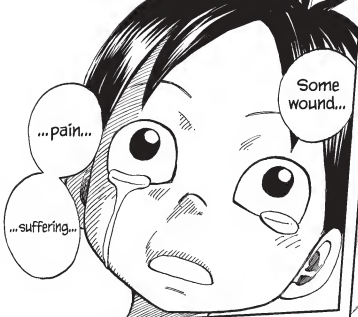
Ah ha
ha!



So
that's
it...

That's
Igneel.

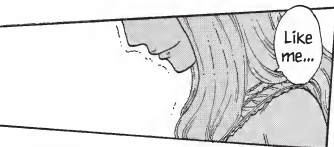




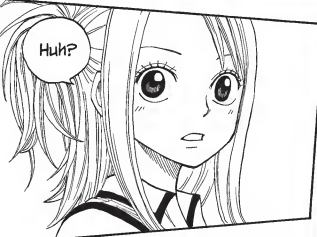
...pain...

Some wound...

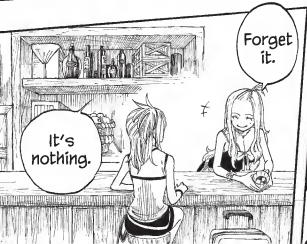
...suffering...



Like me...



Huh?

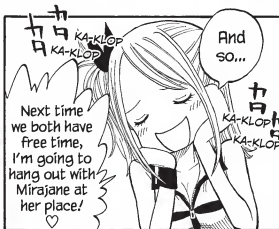
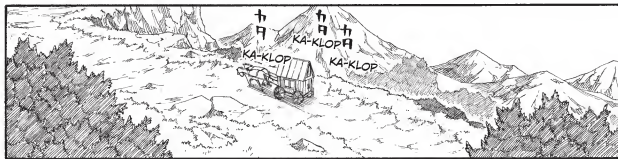
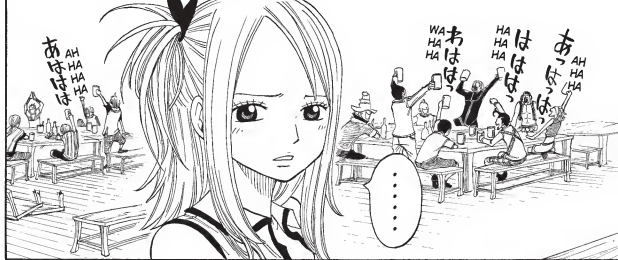


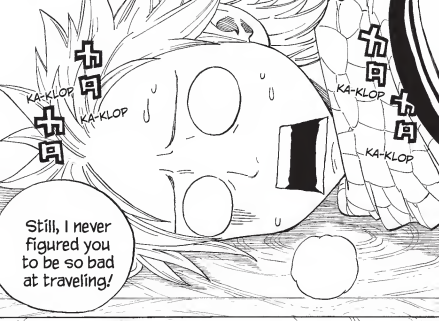
Forget it.

It's nothing.



...are all living under a cloud.





Well, I finally made it to Fairy Tail, and I was hoping that I could be of some use!

You see?



And I figured that this would raise my stock with the place! I'm sure of it!!

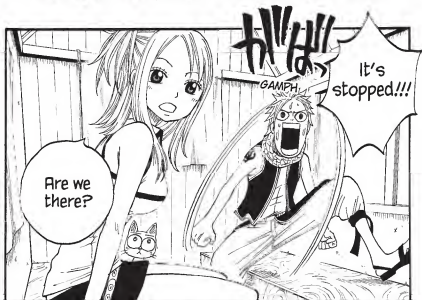


You can live with us at Natsu's place.

If I thought you were serious, I'd pull your whiskers out, kitty cat.

Once we finish our search for Macao-san, I'm going to have to find a place to live.

You poor, poor guy!





...but a horse-drawn carriage can't go any farther in this!

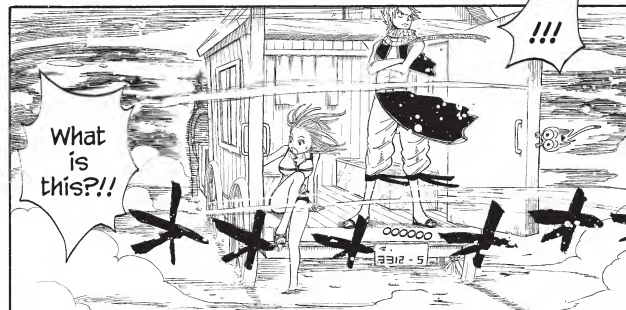


S-So cold!!!



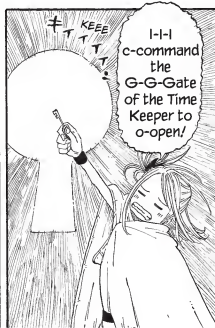
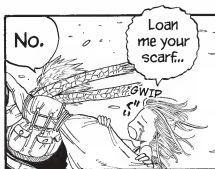
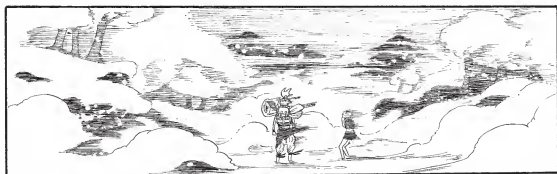
I don't care how high we are in the mountains, this is still summer!!!

A blizzard now is just weird!!!



What is this?!!

!!!





"What'd I come for? What kind of work brought Macao-san to a place like this in the first place?"

...is her reply.

What'd she even come for?!

My Mistress says, "I'll be here if you want me."

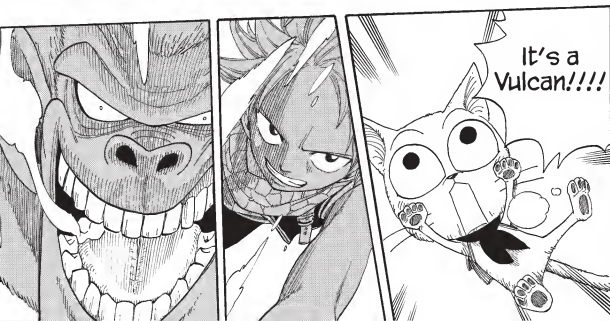
Cool!

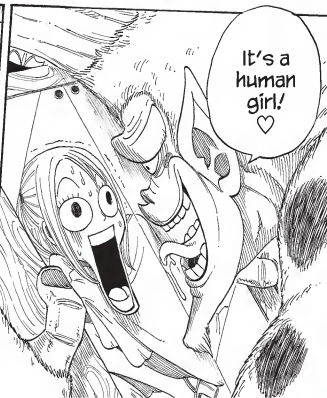
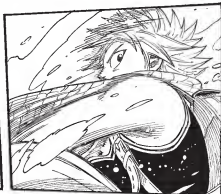
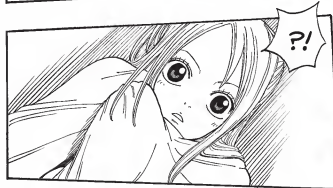
!!!!

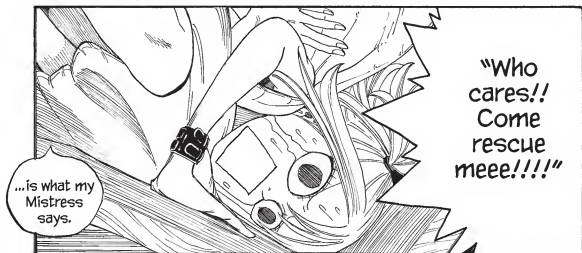
You came without even knowing that?!!

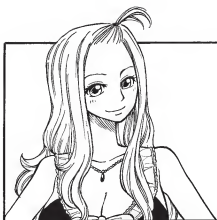
He came to defeat the huge monsters they call Vulcans!











What Is a Guild?

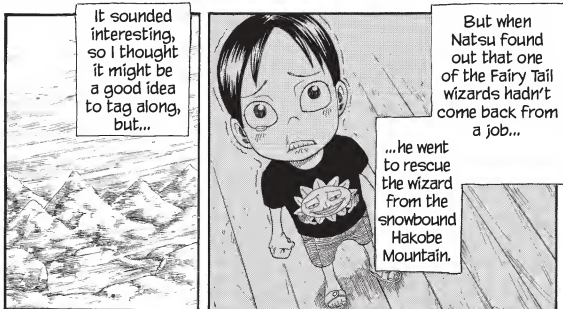
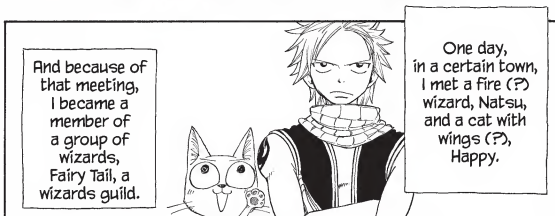
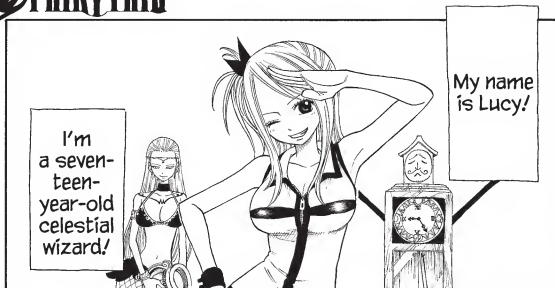
It's a word you don't hear much nowadays, huh? They gave an explanation in the book already, but there may be somebody out there who still doesn't get it, so for that person, I'd like to go into a little more detail.

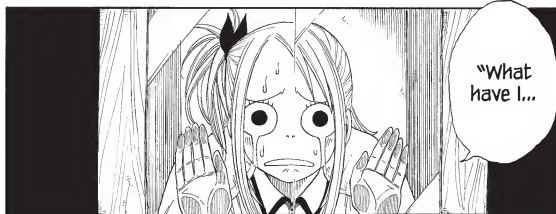
Originally, guilds began in Europe in the Middle Ages. You can think of them as groups of people working in a single type of industry who join forces and act on their decisions together. At the time, guilds were only for tradesmen and craftsmen, but for the purposes of this story, we thought, "What the heck? Let's make a story about craftsmen whose craft is wizardry!" And thus, this book.

So why did guilds arise in the first place? It's because the world is full of dangers. Tradesmen cross mountains and oceans to sell their wares. But there are pirates on the oceans and bandits in the mountains who are after the tradesmen's goods. Hiring soldiers costs a lot of money. So what to do? Well, why shouldn't everyone go together?!

And that's how many people with the same objective first gathered together. The danger never really went away, but they had more strength together than alone, right? One additional benefit was that the guild would take care of a tradesman's house when he was off on business. Eventually, the guilds became too powerful, and they were the causes of wars. But if you're really interested in that part, go do some studying. (Ha ha!)

In other words, a guild is where people with similar objectives congregate. In this story, the people are a group of wizards who earn their living by using magic to help solve other people's problems. "Earn your living" may sound a little too "grown-up" for some of you, but it means that wizards have a lot of adventures to look forward to. That's what the wizard guild is all about!

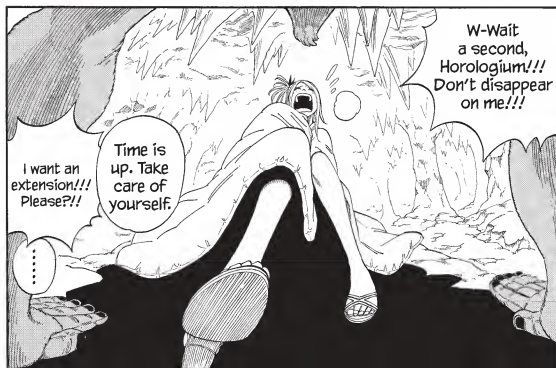
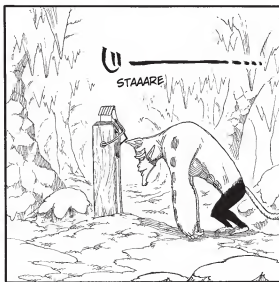
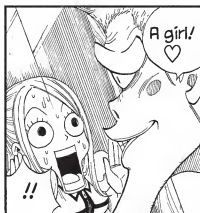


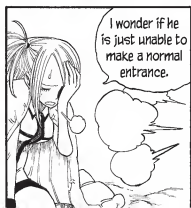
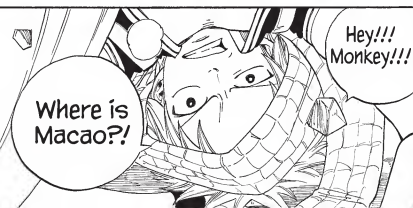
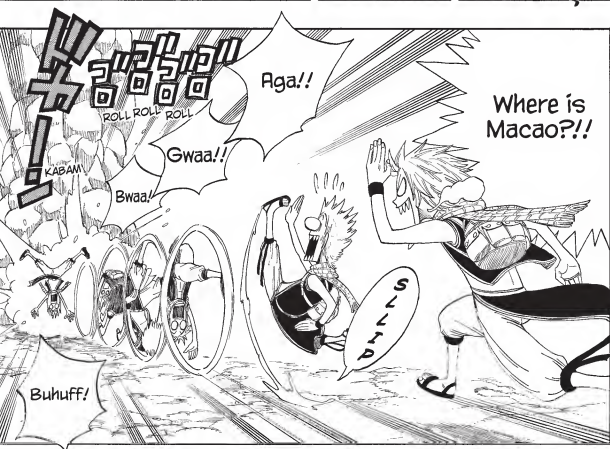


FAIRY TAIL

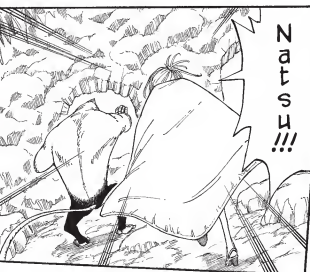
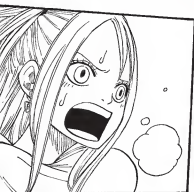


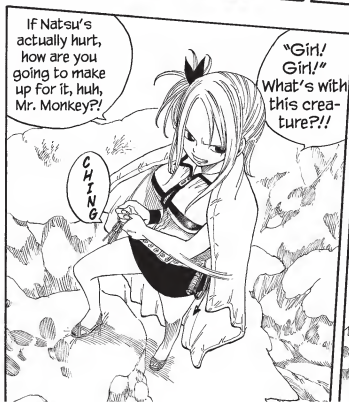
Chapter 3: Fire Dragons and Monkeys and Cows

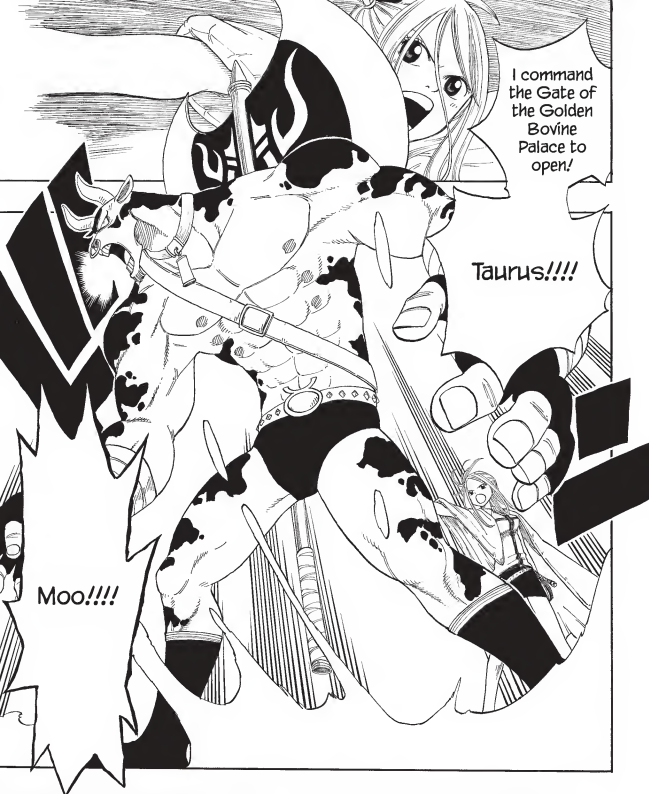


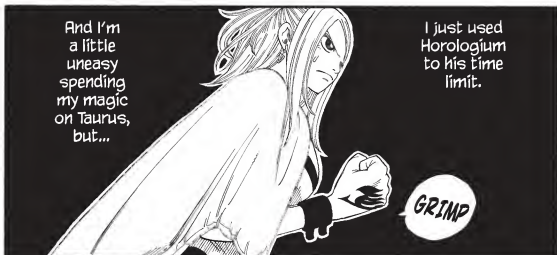
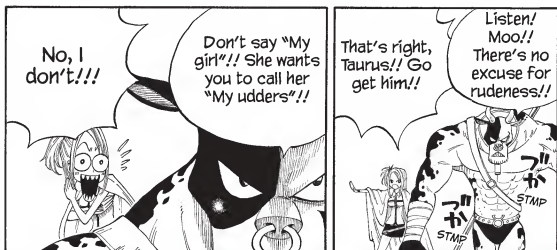
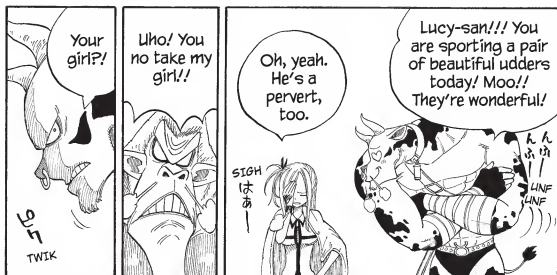


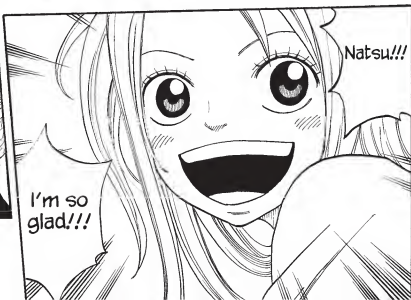
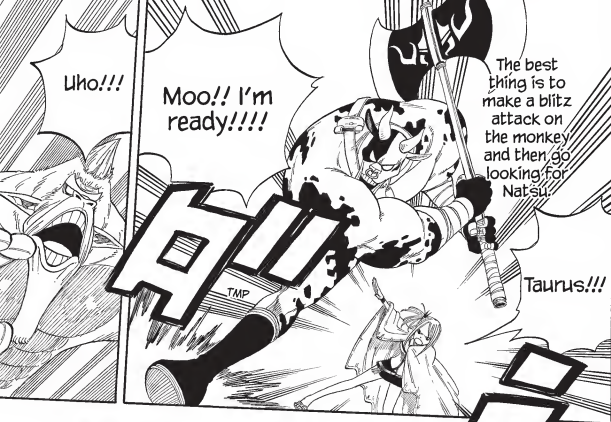














Now there are
even more
monsters here,
huh?!!!

Moof!!

GWAMM

Who?

Kyaaaaa!!!

What was that
for?!! After
I was worried
about you!!!

That's
because
you're
weak!!!

GRUNCH

It seems
I've failed
you.

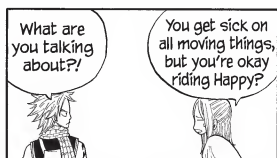
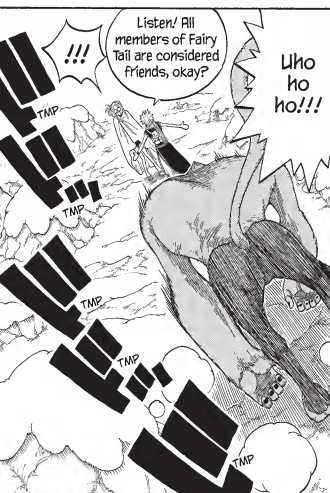
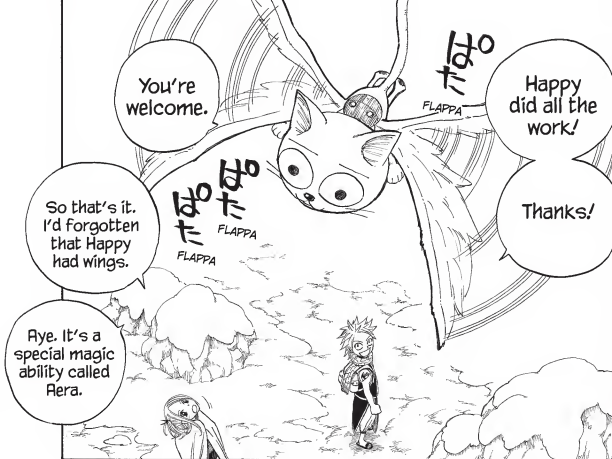
Moo...



Heh/

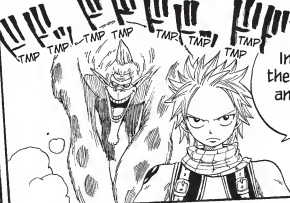


But how'd
you get out
of that?!!





He's coming
!!!



Including
the old man,
and Mira...



Including
Happy and
you, Lucy.
You're all
friends.



Okay!!
Okay!!

Behind
you,
Natsu
!!!

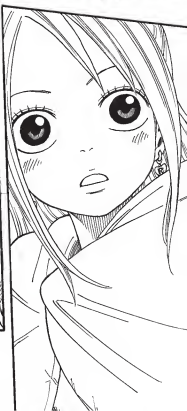
That
annoying
guy, Gray,
and Elfman...

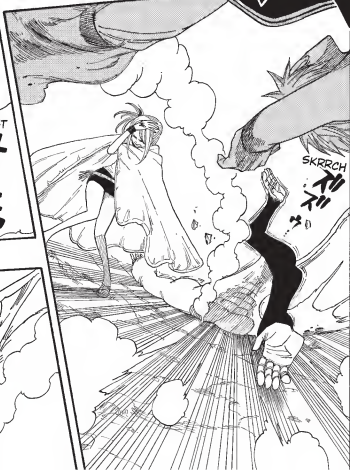


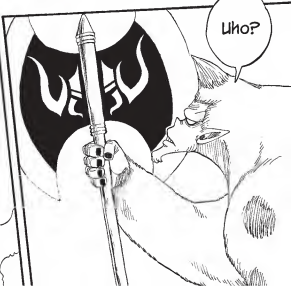
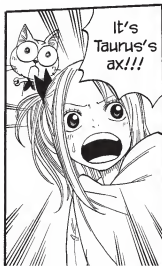
HOO



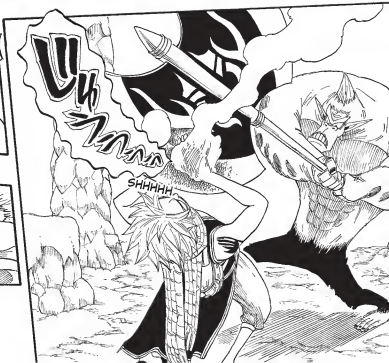
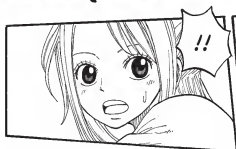
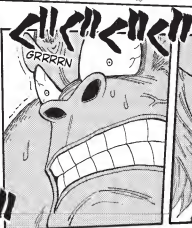
And
so...

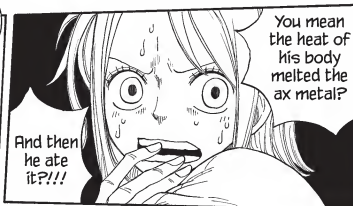
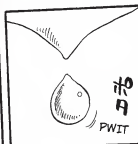
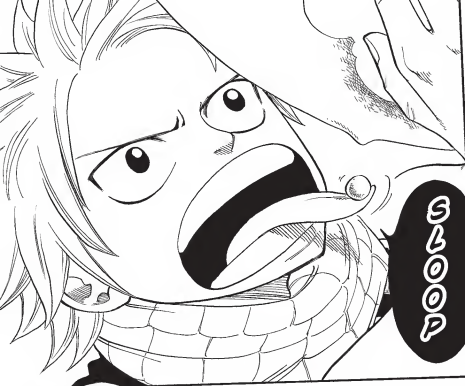






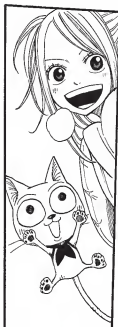


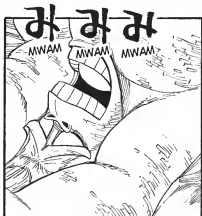
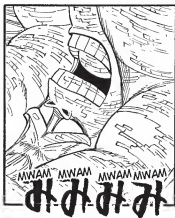
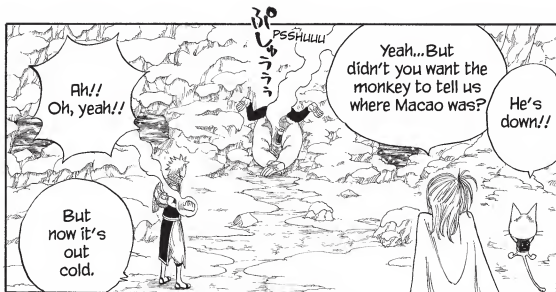


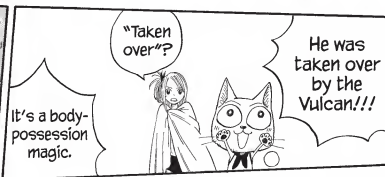
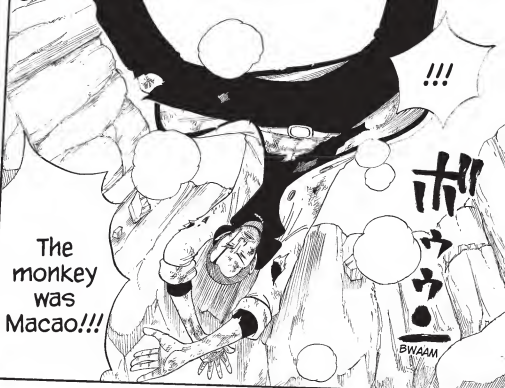


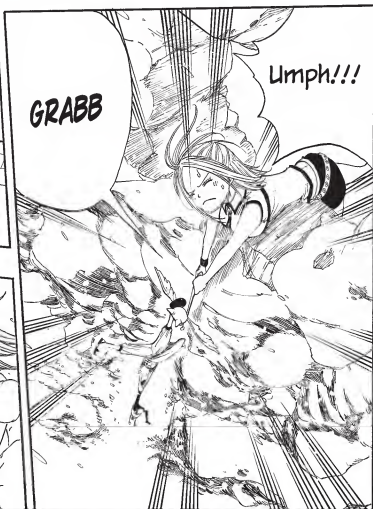
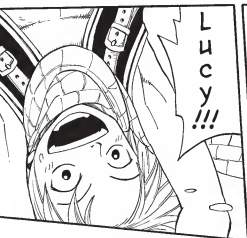
You mean
the heat of
his body
melted the
ax metal?

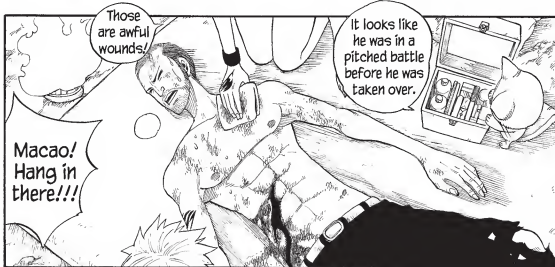
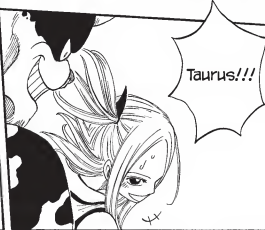
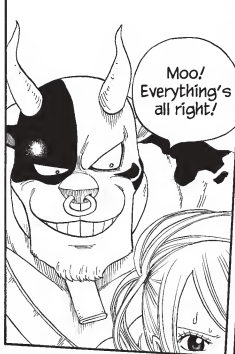


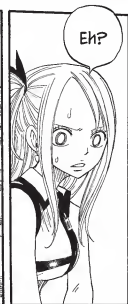
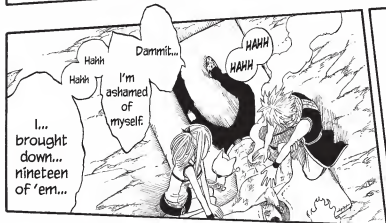




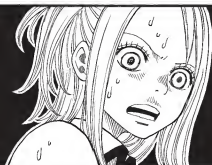






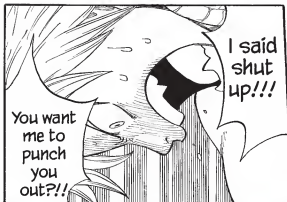


He went
out on a
job like
that all
alone?!!



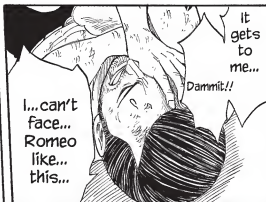
You're
kidding?!
You mean it
wasn't just
one?!!

You want
me to
punch
you
out?!!



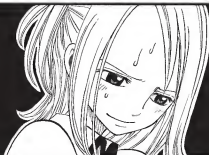
I said
shut
up!!!

I...can't
face...
Romeo
like...
this...

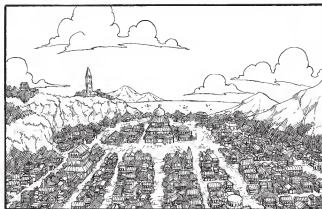
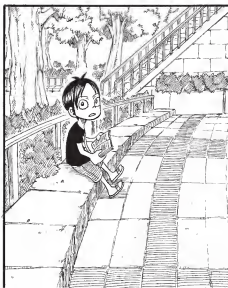


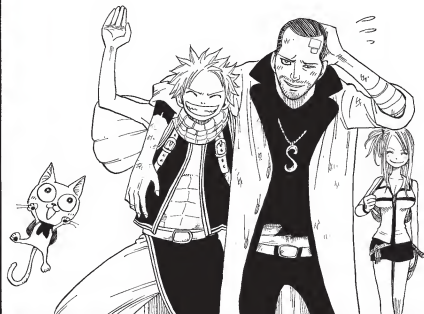
It
gets
to
me...
Dammit!!

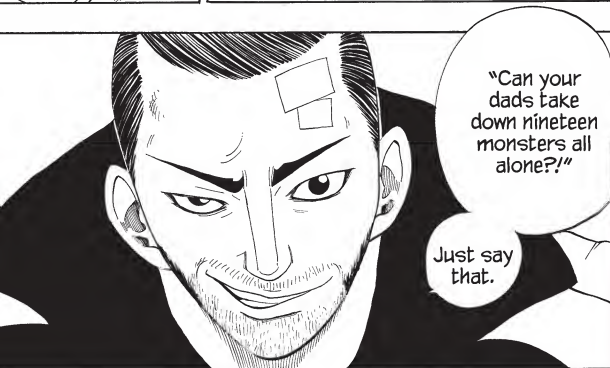
I'm out of
my league
here.

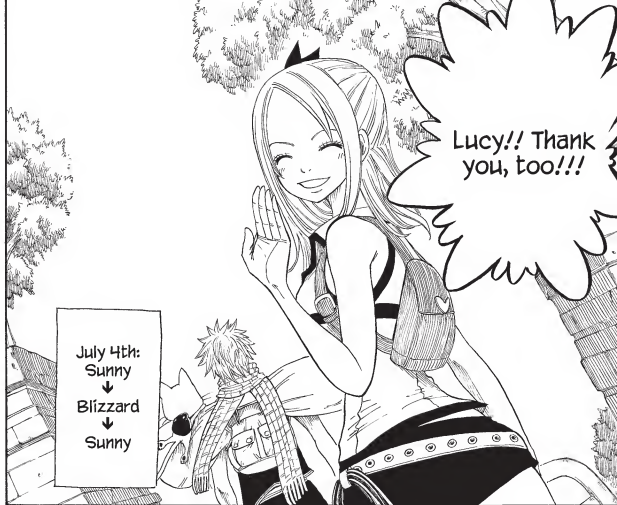


These guys
really are
amazing.









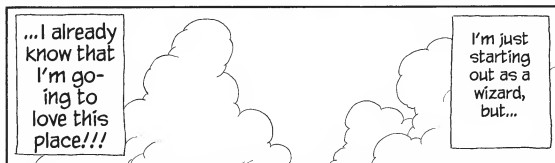
Lucy!! Thank
you, too!!!

July 4th:
Sunny
↓
Blizzard
↓
Sunny



But it's
fun, and the
people are
warm and
kind.

Fairy Tail is
really a mess
of a guild.

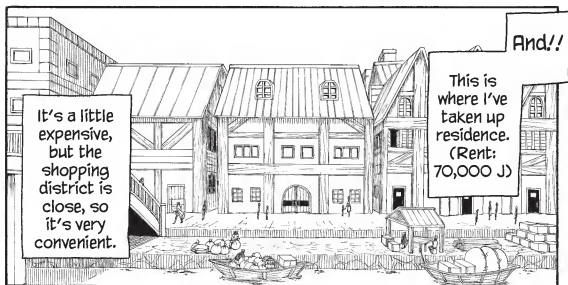
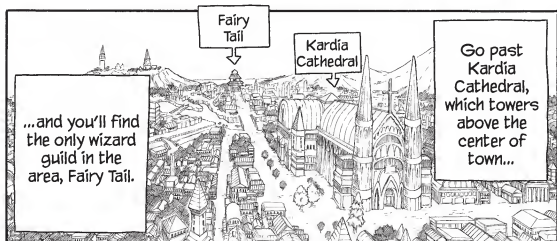
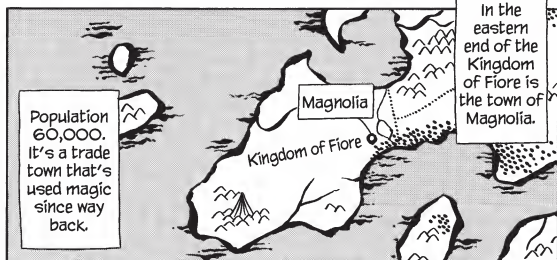


...I already
know that
I'm go-
ing to
love this
place!!!

I'm just
starting
out as a
wizard,
but...

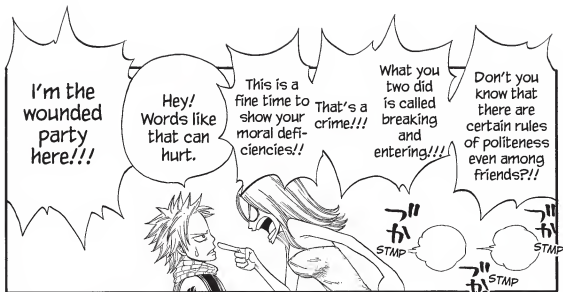
FAIRY TAIL

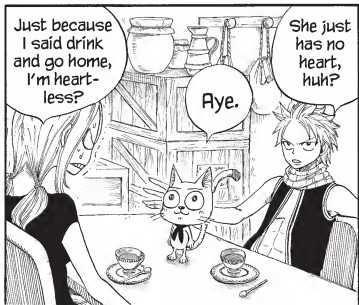
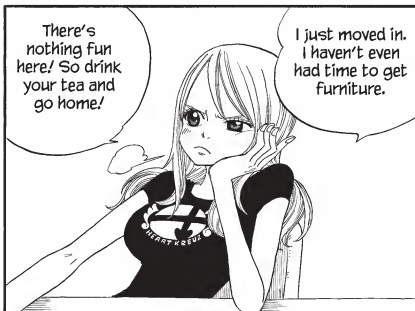


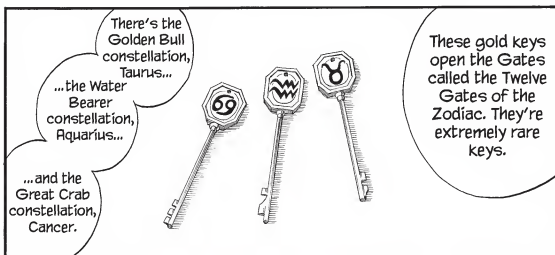
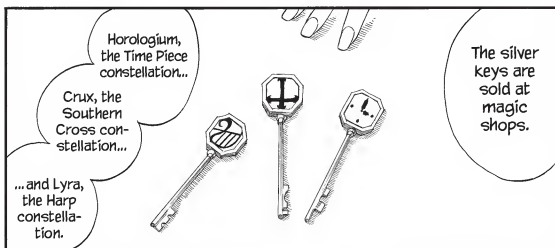
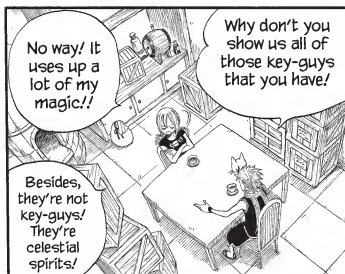
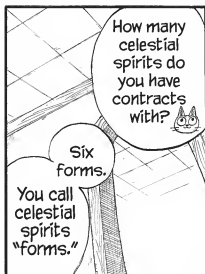


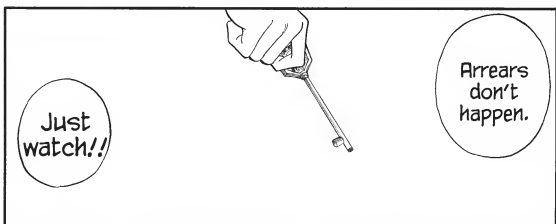
Chapter 4: The Celestial Spirit of Canis Minor







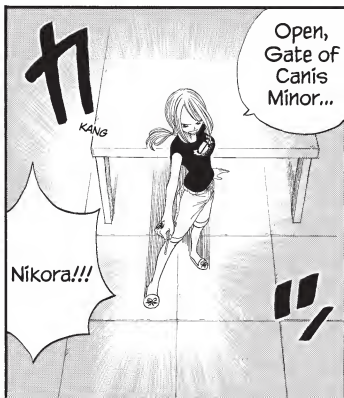
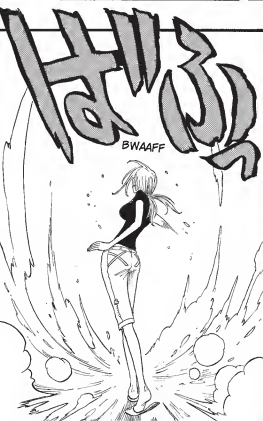
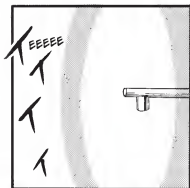






You must
answer
and pass
through
your
Gate!!

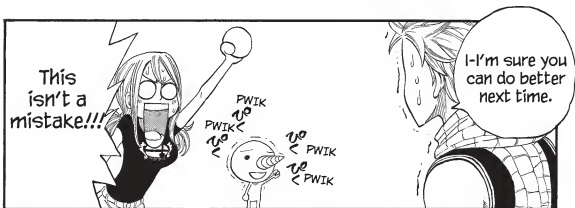
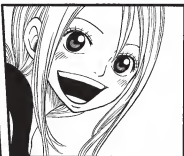
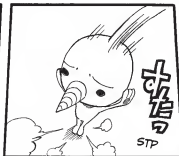
I am one
who cre-
ates paths
to the
celestial
spirit
world!!

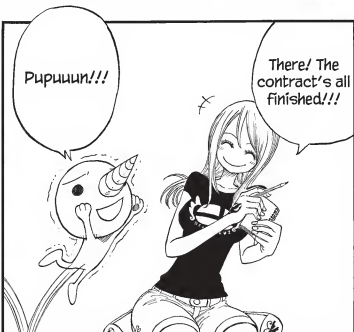
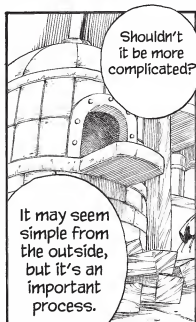
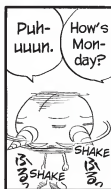
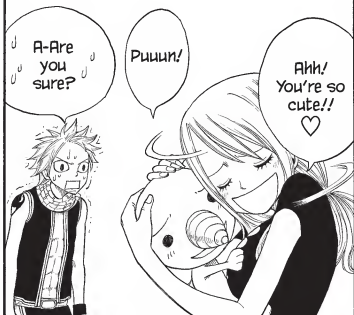


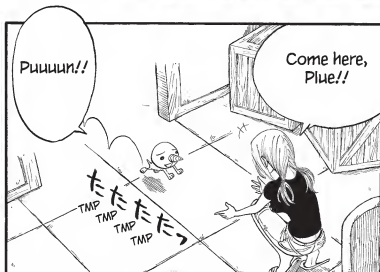
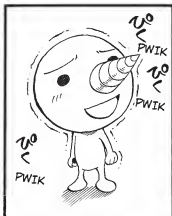
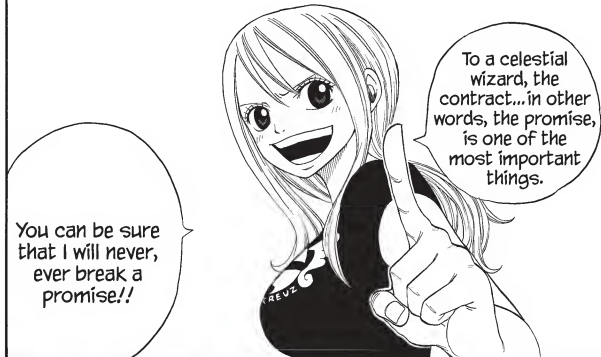
Open,
Gate of
Canis
Minor...

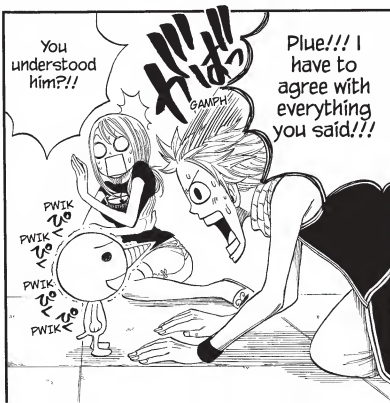
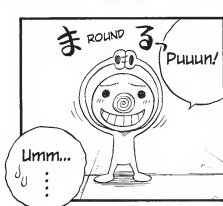
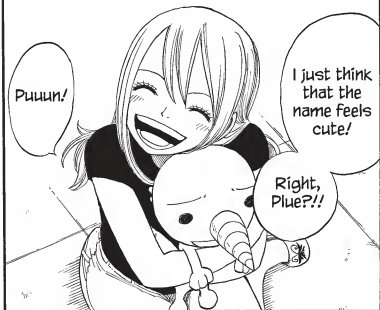
KANG

Nikora!!!













A job that may be too difficult for one might be much easier for a team.

And people who get along especially well organize into smaller teams.

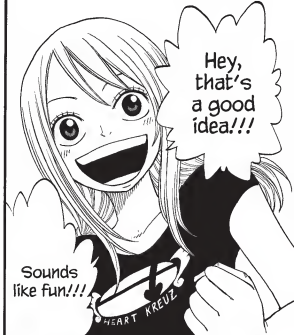
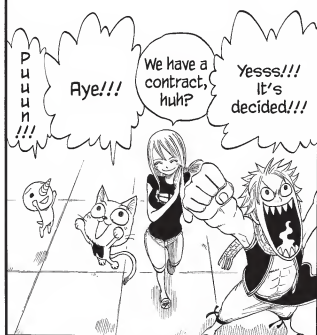
Everyone in the guild is part of the same group.

Aye!

That makes sense!!

Team?





Duke Everlue

***Warning:**
He's a famous
womanizer, lecher, and
pervert. He is presently
searching for a new
blonde maid!

Ohhhh,
dear...
!!!!

Huh?

BRRRRR

You planned
this from
the start...

True!
She can
sneak into
the mansion
in a maid
costume.

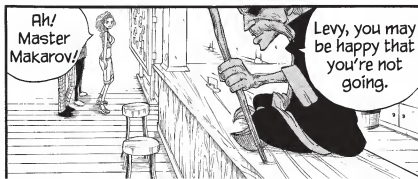
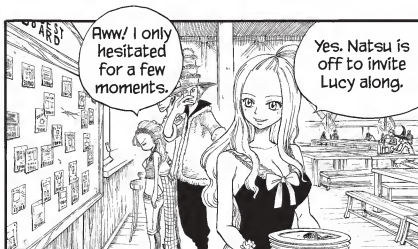
And
Lucy is
blonde,
huh?

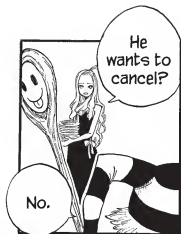
And a celestial
wizard always
keeps her
promises.
How admirable.

This is
awful!!!

GWAAH

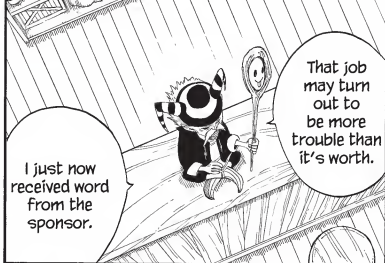
And
I fell
for
it!!!!





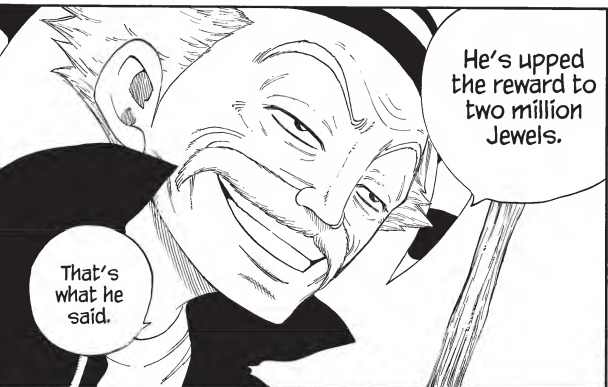
He wants to cancel?

No.



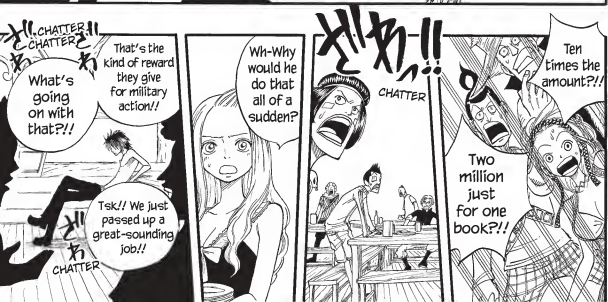
I just now received word from the sponsor.

That job may turn out to be more trouble than it's worth.



That's what he said.

He's upped the reward to two million Jewels.



What's going on with that?!!

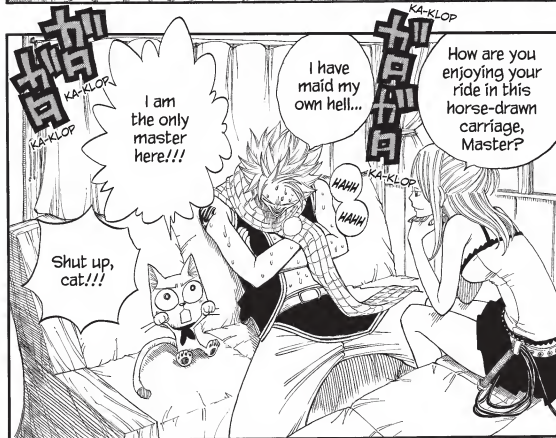
That's the kind of reward they give for military action!!

Wh-Why would he do that all of a sudden?

Tsk!! We just passed up a great-sounding job!!

Ten times the amount?!!

Two million just for one book?!!



TO BE CONTINUED

Little

Happy's Job

REQUEST BOARD

Fish is one of my favorite things!

My name is Happy!

...I found one of the most incredible jobs I'd ever seen!!

One day, when I was looking at the request board at my guild...

Your reward will be 30,000 J. Plus, we'll eat it together!

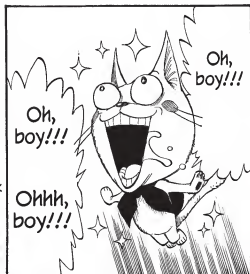
Let's Fishing

SHA-PING

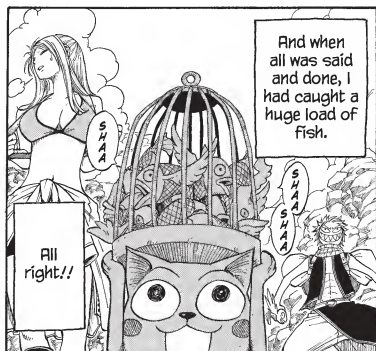
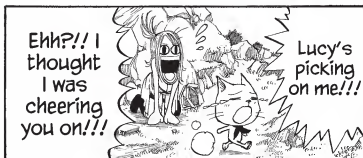


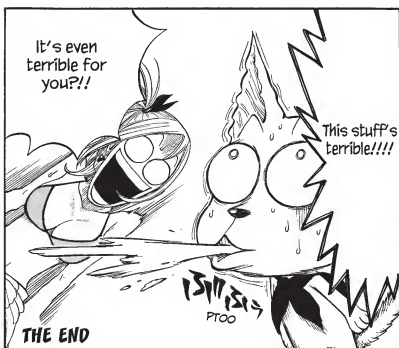
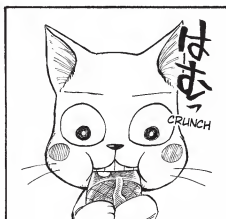
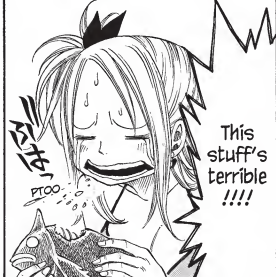
30000J+14

I'd like you to catch an extremely rare delicacy, Hanesakana, the winged fish!









Natsu's Design... Huh? He had horns?

This is what the main character for the short-story version of *Fairy Tail* (actually, it's *Fairy Tale*) looks like. In the short-story version, he was a spirit, but this time he's human, and he's lost the horns.



()



Nice to meet you! Or, long time no see! I'm the author, Mashima. First, let me say thank you for reading the first volume of *Fairy Tail*. Did you enjoy it? I'm planning on making things more and more interesting as we go along, so please join me for the ride.

In this portion of the book, I'm thinking that I'll use the space to talk a little about the behind-the-scenes parts of the manga, recent events in my life, weird things about my editor, or just silly stuff that means nothing. So read it when you have some free time.

For the first volume, I'll tell you the behind-the-scenes story of how *Fairy Tail* was born. Well, it really isn't all that "behind-the-scenes," but... At the very start, it was a story about a guild of couriers and how the fire-using main character, Natsu, carried various things on all kinds of assignments. Even though he's a courier, he gets motion sickness very easily. Natsu of *Fairy Tail* had his motion sickness as a part of his design from the start. The story of how he went from courier to wizard is like this: I pondered how to make the story about a man with a dream. I had the first story about the courier guild pretty much finished, but I became more and more intrigued. And when I came up with the wizard guild idea, and how all sorts of wizards could be gathered in one place, I had pretty much decided to change it to a story about wizards. I can't explain just how excited I was with the thought. One idea after another kept popping into my head. I practically forced my editor to allow me to do it, and I started over from scratch. That's how *Fairy Tail* was born. By the way, the title isn't supposed to be a once-upon-a-time story. It means the tail of a fairy. That may prove to be a pivotal point, but it may not. Well, who cares, really? [laughs]

So, from here on, I'm going to do my best to write an interesting story. We'll fly from one thing to the next. (What the hell is that supposed to mean?!!) So expect magic! Let's meet again in volume 2!

About the Creator

HIRO MASHIMA was born May 3, 1977, in Nagano prefecture. His series *Rave Master* has made him one of the most popular manga artists in America. *Fairy Tail*, currently being serialized in *Weekly Shonen Magazine*, is his latest creation.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

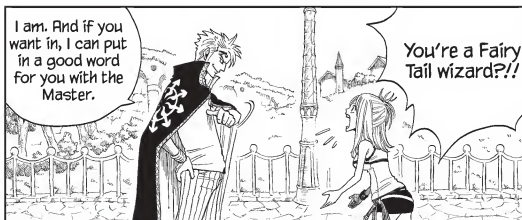
General Note: Wizard

In the original Japanese version of *Fairy Tail*, you'll find panels in which the English word "wizard" is part of the original illustration. So this translation has taken that as its inspiration and translates the word *madōshi* as "wizard." But *madōshi*'s meaning is similar to certain Japanese words that have been borrowed by the English language, such as *judo* ("the soft way") and *kendo* ("the way of the sword"). *Madō* is "the way of magic," and *madōshi* are those who follow the way of magic. So although the word "wizard" is used in the original dialogue, a Japanese reader would be likely to think not of traditional Western wizards such as Merlin or Gandalf, but of martial artists.

Jewels and calculating money, page 12

In fantasy tales, no small part of the story's unique magical world is that world's imaginary currency. In America, fantasy writers tend to depend on their readers' familiarity with American money, attaching a phrase like "silver pieces" to an amount that would be wholly plausible in U.S. dollars. In Japan, the same convention is used, except that the imaginary currency is a substitute for yen. So, in *Fairy Tail*, merchants quote sums like 20,000 Jewels that sound ridiculously huge to American readers but are fairly reasonable to the Japanese. A rough-but-quick currency conversion is 100 yen to the dollar, so when Lucy is told that the White Doggy key is 20,000 J, that would be roughly equivalent to ¥20,000 in Japanese money, or about \$200 U.S. Keeping the amounts so close to the yen/dollar amounts that readers already know makes it easy for them to understand how expensive things are in the fantasy world.





Master, page 32

"Master" is an English loan word that the Japanese have added to their language, but like many loan words, "master" has acquired an entirely different meaning than its English one. In Japan, the owner or manager of a bar or other similar establishment is called the master of the business. The nuances of the word "master" as we know it—that it implies advanced knowledge or skill—have disappeared in its Japanese usage, nor does it imply the "slave owner" definition. It is simply what one calls the person who runs a business.



Thanks for the meal, page 64

This is a rough translation of a ritualistic Japanese phrase. This phrase, *Gochisô-sama*, is said at the end of every meal. It literally means "It was a feast," and it is usually said to the person who cooked the meal or the one who provided it (for example, the person who pays the bill at a restaurant). So ingrained is this habit that one often says it to oneself even after finishing eating a self-prepared meal alone.



What's all this, then? page 77

Yes, this is an old, worn-out cliché that British police are famous for saying when arriving at a crime scene (although I doubt that all that many of them actually use it these days). But it is, in fact, a pretty accurate translation of what was said in Japanese.

Nekomander, page 112

This is a joking play on the name of the villain. The Japanese version used the English word 'salamander' as the name of the villain. The Japanese word for cat is *neko*. As translator, I suppose I could have used the translation 'catmander' or 'kittymander' for Happy's dialogue, but the Japanese word that Happy used, *nekomander*, just had a nice ring to it.



"Forms," page 171

In the original, Lucy is actually explaining how to count celestial spirits. English sometimes uses special counter words for some items. For example, when saying how much paper one has, one counts by pieces or sheets. When saying how many cows one has, one counts by heads of cattle. This is a matter of custom and established usage. The same is true for Japanese, but on a much wider scale. Nearly everything has a special counter word. In the previous panel, Happy asks how many spirits Lucy has, but he asks using the same counter that is used for counting people. So Lucy corrects Happy by telling him they're counted with the counter *tai* (which uses the kanji that means "body"). Although, because they are spirits, "body" is not the most appropriate translation; the somewhat synonymous word "form" can indicate both corporeal bodies and noncorporeal manifestations. It isn't a perfect translation, since English doesn't allow for Happy to make his counter mistake without his dialogue sounding very awkward. But fortunately for the translator, it's in Lucy's character to explain a lot of things for no particular reason.

Nikor, page 172

The constellation Taurus is called Taurus, and the constellation Aquarius is called Aquarius, so why is Canis Minor called Nikora? I have to admit that I don't know. The



famous astronomer Nicolas Louis de Lacaille discovered and coined the names to many constellations, and the Japanese transliterate his first name as Nikora. But he did not name Canis Minor, and he seems to have no other relation to the constellation. If you readers know the answer, please write in to Kodansha and let us know.

Arrears, page 172

This was a pun. When translating a pun, one usually has to choose one of the two meanings to put into the translation (since it is rare that one word can contain the same two meanings in both languages). In this case, Happy asked if one must sign in blood (*ketsuban*), and Natsu misinterpreted the statement, saying that such a thing can hurt one's rear end (*ketsu*). As translator, I decided to take the low road by keeping the "rear end" meaning rather than the "blood contract" meaning. As it turns out, one does not have to sign in blood (nor does one ever come into arrears).



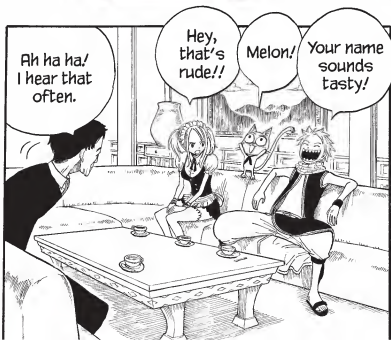
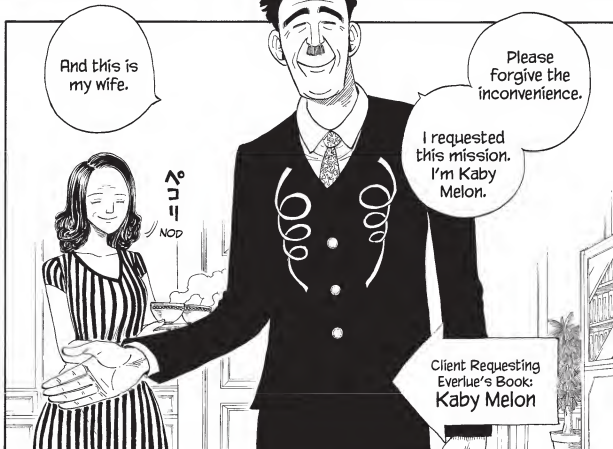
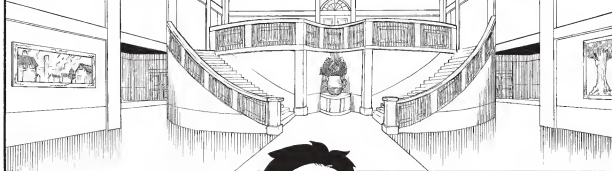
Maid my own hell, page 184

Another pun. In Japanese, one of the words for the underworld is *meido*, which also happens to be the way the Japanese say the English word "maid." I simply took advantage of the fact that "made" and "maid" are homophones in English to make a pun that is still a pretty close equivalent to the Japanese.

Preview of Volume 2

We're pleased to present you with a preview from volume 2, now available from Kodansha Comics. Check out our Web site (www.kodanshacomics.com) for more details!





The job and pay don't match. There's got to be a catch somewhere.

Really? I was surprised that such a good job was left on the board as long as it was.

I never imagined a wizard from the famed Fairy Tail guild would take up my offer...

I'm a Fairy Tail wizard, too!!!

And you are...

They call me Natsu the Salamander.

You're so young. No doubt you've become famous in your own right, but...

Oh!! That's a name that I've heard before.

I think I want to go home.

So your clothes are a hobby of yours? No need to answer. Never mind.

STARE



GULP



Yes!

Aye!

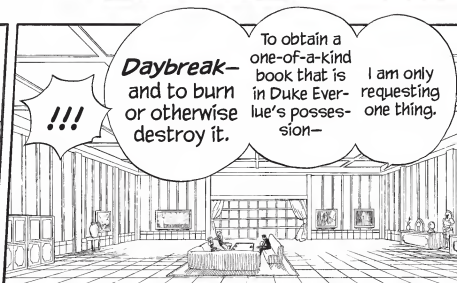


Now, shall we talk about the job?



You don't want it stolen for you?

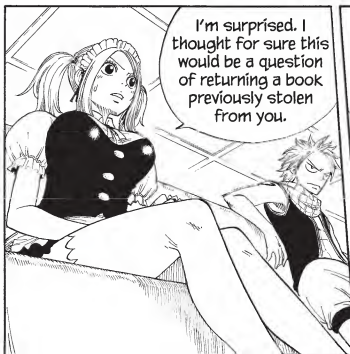
!!!



Daybreak— and to burn or otherwise destroy it.

To obtain a one-of-a-kind book that is in Duke Everlue's possession—

I am only requesting one thing.



I'm surprised. I thought for sure this would be a question of returning a book previously stolen from you.



...is very much the same as stealing it, but...

I suppose, in reality, obtaining someone else's property without compensation and destroying it...



TOMARE!



You're going the wrong way!

Manga is a completely different
type of reading experience.

To start at the *beginning*,
go to the *end*!

That's right! Authentic manga is read the traditional Japanese way—from right to left, exactly the opposite of how American books are read. It's easy to follow: Just go to the other end of the book, and read each page—and each panel—from right side to left side, starting at the top right. Now you're experiencing manga as it was meant to be!